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Israel-Lebanon

A Nepalese soldier serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier were killed in separate clashes with Hizballah militiamen in southern Lebanon. According to a UNIFIL spokesman, whose account was broadcast on Beirut radio, a UNIFIL unit came under fire when it spotted eight armed men near al-Huqbal hill and ordered them to leave the area. In the ensuing exchange of fire, one Nepalese soldier was killed and three were injured. According to Israel radio, the Israeli soldier was killed when his unit was ambushed near the village of Bayt Lif in the "security zone." A Hizballah gunman was also killed in the skirmish. Jerusalem Television reports that IDF continued reinforcing troops in Lebanon, giving Israel its largest military presence in that country "since the war in Lebanon." In light of the tension in the area Amal declared a "general mobilization and placed its troops at the disposal of the Lebanese Army," according to a Beirut radio report.

Jordan

Approximately 800 prisoners and detainees will be released soon, as a result of King Husayn's declaration of a general amnesty, Amman TV and AL-RA'Y report. The amnesty does not cover premeditated murder, espionage, and certain other crimes, according to AL-DUSTUR. It is not clear if the amnesty will apply to Deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish, who were recently sentenced to 20 years in prison for belonging to an illegal organization allegedly planning to overthrow the government.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peace Talks Continue in Washington on 12 Nov

TA1211203292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The bilateral talks in Washington are continuing. The issue of tension in the north was not mentioned in today's talks with the Syrians, and the debate over Syria's demand for an Israeli withdrawal continued. In the talks with Jordan, it was agreed that the discussions of the teams of experts on water issues will begin next week. Our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] The possibility of an indirect clash between Israel and Iran, through Hizballah, is looming over the Washington talks. Another channel of communication has developed, and pressure is being applied to the Lebanese delegation as well.

The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr. Suhayl Shammas, has already hinted to his government that he would be better off without this honor. He stopped defending out loud the legitimate right of Hizballah to resist the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the security zone, but he would not express the reservation on the record. He asked Israel to make a commitment not to attack.

[Shammas, in English] They have continued their military operations. They are massing their troops. Let us ask them and see for what objective and how far they want to continue using their military mettle in Lebanon.

[Ya'ari] Large parts of the less complicated two-thirds of the document of principles with Syria have already been finalized, but this is meaningless as long as the Syrians are insisting on an Israeli pledge for a full withdrawal and are not adding details as to their meaning of the essence of peace.

[Syria's chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, in Arabic] If the Israeli delegation keeps avoiding a commitment to a total withdrawal, we will reach the same conclusion that we reached two days ago and the days before.

[Israel's chief delegate to talks with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, in English] You need the patience and the wisdom to carry this process through difficulties.

[Ya'ari] Israel has delivered to Jordan its offers for amendments, or clarifications, of the clause in the agenda dealing with drawing the border between Jordan and the West Bank. The Jordanians want it to be said, in one way or another, that the border is with territories reserved for the Palestinians, including Jerusalem. They stressed they are not withdrawing from the document, only wishing to sharpen it. In practice, the Jordanians promised the Palestinians that the completion of the phrasing will not be immediate.

An attempt to thaw the freeze with the Palestinians will be made later tonight, while everyone here is awaiting President-elect Bill Clinton's announcement of his appointment of a representative on his behalf to accompany the discussions from now until 20 January 1993. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-'Allaf Notes 'Lack of Progress' in Talks

JN1311092992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Washington—At the end of yesterday's meeting, the eighth in the ongoing seventh round of talks, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, stated that the discussions during this meeting continued to revolve around the same topics dealt with during the meeting the day before yesterday. The end result continues to be a lack of progress, he noted.

In a statement to reporters, al-'Allaf added: The Israeli side continues to stand in the way of progress by insisting on noncommitment to the concept of a complete withdrawal from the Arab territories Israel occupied in 1967 and also by insisting on certain things related to the outcome of peace, which cannot be viewed as prerequisites for peace.

In reply to a question posed by a reporter, al-'Allaf denied the allegations made by the chief Israeli delegate to the effect that the Syrian delegation is procrastinating to prevent progress during this round of talks. He added: This charge is meant to be a coverup for the very conduct of the Israeli side. Syrian interests are not promoted by either the use of delaying tactics or procrastination, because Syrian territory is occupied. Furthermore, we are sincere and serious in this endeavor and concerned for the attainment of a peace agreement that would terminate this occupation and bring about a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the region. In contrast, the Israeli side believes that the use of delaying tactics would be beneficial to it, as it entertains the notion that a different situation might be created after December.

Al-'Allaf went on to say: The Israeli side is using these tactics not only on the Syrian-Israeli track, but on all other Arab-Israeli tracks as well.

When asked about the possibility of holding another round of talks before the end of the transitional period, when the new U.S. Administration will assume executive power on 20 January 1993, al-'Allaf said: The issue of holding further rounds of talks is decided by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides participating in the talks. They usually meet to assess the situation in the aftermath of each round of talks. There will be a meeting after the end of the seventh round of talks. It is they who will decide whether or not it will be useful to hold another round of talks during what remains of the transitional period in the U.S. presidency.

In reply to a question on whether he expects U.S. intervention, given that Washington is one of the cosponsors of the peace conference, to advance the talks, al-'Allaf said: We hope that the U.S. sponsor will play an effective role and act as a catalyst, as it promised. However, we do not nurse big delusions in this regard. Since no progress has been made throughout the previous rounds of talks, it is difficult for us to conceive of such progress under these circumstances which preoccupy the mind of the U.S. sponsor emanating from the transitional period in the U.S. presidency.

For his part, Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, affirmed yesterday that the Israeli-Lebanese talks have reached a dead end due to Israeli intransigence and the continuous Israeli military attacks on Lebanese territory.

At the end of yesterday's round of talks, Shammas declared that the Israeli side has reiterated Israel's rejection of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied southern Lebanon—something which means that we are returning to square one. It follows from this, he noted, that we can say that the Israeli-Lebanese talks have reached a dead end.

Shammas Sees Negotiations at 'Deadlock'

NC1211221992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation negotiating with Israel, has declared that the negotiations with Israel have reached a deadlock. He added that the Israeli negotiators have repeated their contention that it is inconceivable to withdraw from the border strip, except in the context of a peace treaty. After the conclusion of today's session of talks, Shammas remarked that he responded by stating that this takes the negotiations back to square one. Shammas added: If this is the position, I maintain that we have reached a deadlock.

Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, announced that negotiations with Lebanon are the only thing capable of restoring security to the border area.

The Israeli radio quoted its Washington correspondent as reporting that the Israeli delegation informed the Lebanese that Israel has been so far exercising self-restraint in order to give the Lebanese authorities the chance to control those who want to undermine the peace process.

Israelis Note Palestinian 'Goodwill' at Talks

TA1311074492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report from Washington by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians were the surprise of yesterday's peace talks, while Itamar Rabinovich and Uri Lubrani summed up their week as a bad week for talks.

There were manifestations of goodwill in the latest meeting between the delegations of Elyaqim Rubinstein and Dr. Haydar 'Abd- al-Shafi. The Palestinians surprised their counterparts. They had launched this round of talks with tough stands, raising the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, and so forth, which, in Israel's view, are part of the permanent arrangement. The Palestinians' toughness was interpreted to mean that the Palestinians are afraid Israel would refuse in the future to discuss anything beyond the interim arrangements—that is, autonomy.

Despite that, the Palestinians showed goodwill at yesterday's talks. As in the good old days, the talks split into two informal teams: one dealing with the concept of autonomy and another with land. Economic issues were discussed for the first time, as was a document on human rights in the territories submitted by the Palestinian delegation. Until now, Israel had refused to receive the document. This time, the delegation read the document and responded to the charges. The two sides dealt with the document at length. [passage omitted]

Israel Decides To Participate in Ottawa Talks

TA1211133092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Israel has decided to participate in the conference on refugee affairs in Ottawa after the United States clarified that Muhammad Hallaj, the head of the Palestinian delegation, was not a member of the Palestine National Council. Ya'ir Stern, our correspondent in Ottawa, reports that the decision was made following lengthy discussions between Israel, the United States, and Canada. Following the U.S. clarification, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres instructed the delegation members to attend the second day of talks. Our correspondent notes that last night, in an Ottawa news conference, Hallaj said that he was indeed a member of the Palestine National Council.

Palestinians Demand 'Right of Return'

TA1211182492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The Ottawa talks on refugee affairs, in which Israel only today agreed to participate, have run into difficulties. The Palestinians have demanded a discussion on the right of return for all the refugees, including those from 1948.

Meanwhile, more details have emerged about the agreement that permitted Israel's representatives to attend the committee's sessions after Israel had demanded that Muhammad Hallaj, the head of the Palestinian delegation, be barred from the talks. Yesterday evening, Hallaj confirmed that he was a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Apparently, with the aid of

U.S. mediation, he was persuaded to resign from the PNC, enabling the Americans to declare that Hallaj was no longer a member of the PNC.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Development Bank Meets in Tehran

Radio Previews Meeting

NC0911111292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. The 17th annual session of the executive board of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] will convene tomorrow 10 November in Tehran. The finance and economic affairs ministers of over 40 Islamic countries will participate in the session to review the bank's performance in the past year and to ratify its balance sheet and financial statement.

The Tehran session will assess and debate the international economy and its effect on the economies of Islamic countries, concentrating on strengthening economic cooperation among member countries.

The IDB is an institution affiliated with the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, and all its banking operations are in line with Islamic tenets. The bank was established in 1975 with 2.1 billion Islamic dinars to foster the growth and prosperity of Islamic countries' economies and to strengthen their mutual ties. The IDB head office is in Jeddah and one of its objectives is to boost the socio-economic development of ICO member-countries, forging a union of Muslim countries to counteract problems in their economic cooperation and development based on the principles of the hallowed Islamic shari'ah.

The bank's nominal capital has recently been raised to 6 billion dinars. The bank's currency and unit of calculation is the Islamic dinar, the value of which has been fixed in accordance with a specific rate stipulated by the International Monetary Fund equivalent to 1.40 dollars.

In 1988, the Islamic Republic of Iran gained membership by investing a share capital of 2.5 million Islamic dinars, the minimum investment for IDB membership. This year, with the approval of the Islamic consultative Majles, Iran has increased its investment in the IDB to 175 million Islamic dinars. This increase in Iran's investment led to the appointment of an Iranian as a permanent member of the bank's governing body, enabling Iran to play a more effective role in the bank's activities.

In the four years since joining the IDB, Iran has compiled a program for reciprocal cooperation and has used the bank's credit facilities to finance our country's production and development programs. The IDB gave Iran 18.2 million dollars to produce cane sugar in Khuzestan, 28 million dollars for a white cement project in Saveh, 59 million dollars for the Iranian National Steel Company, 5 million dollars interest-free assistance to develop education and training, and 1.2 million dollars interest-free assistance to Iraqi refugees resident in Iran.

Since ICO membership is a prerequisite of IDB membership, the republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Albania have been invited to participate as observers at the annual IDB session. With Azerbaijan a member of the IDB, talks are in progress with Turkmenistan officials for its membership.

In view of world economic conditions and north-south relations, which have worsened Islamic countries' commercial exchanges, increasing budget deficits, and foreign debts, the Tehran session will be a suitable opportunity to discuss practical solutions to economic problems and their elimination.

IDB Official Addresses Meeting

LD1011121692 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—A senior official here Tuesday stressed that the agony in Bosnia-Hercegovina, similar to that resulting from the occupation of Palestine by the Zionists, is an agony for Islam and for all Muslims.

The remark was made by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of finance and economic affairs and president of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] at the 17th annual meeting of the IDB here this morning.

Nurbakhsh denounced the "hypocritical policy" of countries and organizations that must stand in defence of human rights but have so far fallen far short of taking any effective step to prevent such crimes.

"Developments in the world order in recent years, the major ones among them being the fall of communism and the end of the cold war, could have potentially created new horizons in international peace and security and economic development," said the minister.

The two-day meeting of the IDB was inaugurated with the participation of 45 member countries and seven observers by a speech delivered by Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Algabid.

The Iranian minister pointed to the trade surplus in the Islamic countries which would be reduced from the 1990 level of 28.1 billion dollars to 4.1 billion dollars in 1992 and said it should serve as an important warning to Islamic countries in connection with their foreign exchanges earning.

"Unfortunately, the level of foreign debt in the Islamic countries increased in 1991. But even though the debt

service to exports ratio has improved, this ratio is by comparison much larger than the overall ratio for all developing countries," Nurbakhsh added.

Islamic countries, he stressed, must not pin their hopes on the prevailing world economic order for their economic development but rather the Islamic world must trust and rely on its inherent potentials and abilities and must pursue the objective of economic growth and development through collective efforts.

"Strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the member countries is a sole alternatives before us," said the minister adding, "we must have confidence in our capabilities. We must place value on Islamic cooperation in cultural, political, economic and social spheres between member countries."

Nurbakhsh noted that during 1412h (Islamic calendar) the IDB was able to participate in the economic development of member countries by approving 194 projects worth a total of 1,328 million dollars.

He said that during the current year the bank had increased its authorized capital to six billion Islamic dinars, therefore, it could play a more effective role in meeting the financial and development needs of its member countries.

He told the meeting that in its five year development plan, now in its fourth year, Iran had made satisfactory progress in achieving its targets through implementing policies for economic reform and removal of economic distortions.

"Furthermore, Iran's gross domestic product grew at an average rate of 11 percent over the first 3 years of the plan, 3 percent higher than projected levels. During 1991, Iran's non-oil exports rose by 81 percent, " he added.

Delegates from Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Albania were also present in the meeting.

Rafsanjani Urges Strengthening IDB

LD1111233292 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani in a meeting with participants at the 17th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) here Wednesday called for strengthening of IDB in Islamic and third world countries in order to fight against plundering of their national resources by the West. The two-day IDB annual meet opened here yesterday.

The president said that formation of the IDB meet in Tehran was a joint effort and an important step towards the cause of the bank.

He noted that the efforts carried out so far was far below the real potential of the Islamic world and that the member countries can more effectively help the world of Islam.

Referring to the key role that banks can play in political and social events, Rafsanjani said that the major political and social developments have economic roots and that major Western banks are possibly the most important levers in materializing the objectives of big powers. He cited as an example the role of the ten-billion-dollar loan granted to Israel by the U.S.

He noted that the Islamic world has immense trade exchanges with the outside world as well as within itself, that abundant money is exchanged among various banks and that the oil trade can be conducted through Islamic countries, if appropriately managed because most oil deposits are in the Muslims lands.

Rafsanjani said that in the economic sector, the Islamic world can absorb these assets and employ them as a lever for achievement of common goals. He added that he does not recommend IDB to be manipulated by the Western policies.

He called on IDB member countries to implement projects including giant projects in fields of mining, sea transportation and trade in poor Islamic countries with the aim to provide the ground for export of their national products.

Presently, he added, the European countries purchase African products and later the Islamic governments buy those products from European companies because there is not adequate investments in Islamic countries.

The president recommended IDB to establish trade centers in Africa and called for improvement of land, sea and air transportation systems in Islamic countries adding that such improvements can positively affect economy of the Islamic world. He also noted that the Islamic governments sometimes need urgent loans and in obtaining them they are ready to give political concessions, a fact which is very much detrimental to the Islamic world and highly beneficial to colonial powers. The IDB can take this pressure lever out of their hand, he added.

The president also called on IDB to provide the newly-independent Central Asian countries with the necessary technical and technological guidelines. The IDB can help these countries to solve their problems so as not to be trapped by others or fall into a new "invisible trap", he stressed.

Rafsanjani indicated that certain Balkan states, like Albania, join IDB. He said, "we can provide a good support for Bosnia-Hercegovina, Kosovo and Sandjak. The Islamic countries must rush to the help of these countries because we are responsible towards these world events."

President Rafsanjani also reiterated the need to assist Afghanistan and noted that the Islamic world should not let Kabul extend its hands towards the pagans.

He also noted, "if certain countries are lenient towards Israel due to financial problems, the bank can help them and must assist countries like Lebanon, which is faced with numerous problems, or Syria, which spends a lot of its budget on defence in the face of the Zionist regime. Moreover, he stressed, IDB can also help Muslim minorities residing in non-Islamic countries.

Stressing that IDB covers one fourth of the world population, the president underlined that the objectives of the bank must be taken seriously so as to stop any nuisances created for the Islamic countries.

Also addressing the audience, IDB President Ahmad Mohamed 'Ali thanked Iran for increasing her asset in the bank and said that Iran is the real supporter of the bank.

He expressed the hope that the rank of the world Muslims would be further united in fighting against those who wage war against Muslims such as the criminal Serbs and the revengeful Zionists.

Meanwhile, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who sponsors the ongoing IDB meeting, submitted a report on the session to Rafsanjani noting that IDB's capital has increased from two to six billion Islamic dinar (equal to dlrs. U.S. eight billion.)

He noted that IDB has prepared special plans for the famine- stricken regions in Africa.

Meeting Concludes

LD1111231392 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—The Board of Governors of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) decided here today to establish a special account for the least developed member countries of the bank with an initial amount of U.S. dlrs 100 million.

The Board of Governors of IDB comprising finance ministers of 46 member countries, ratified a resolution today concerning the bank's seventeenth annual report.

The resolution said that the Republic of Albania shall become a member of the bank after becoming a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Albanian request of membership to OIC is to be approved at the upcoming OIC meeting in Jeddah.

They approved the bank's audited statement of accounts as well as that of each of the longer term trade financing schemes and the portfolio for financial year 1412 hijira (1991-1992) and transfer of balance on the profit and loss account at the end of financial year 1412h to the general reserve.

They elected the finance minister of Gambia as the chairman of the Board of Governors, and the governors of Burkina Faso and the Azerbaijan republic (which is a full member of the bank) as vice-chairmen of the IDB.

The 17th annual meeting of IDB wound up late today. The next annual meeting is to be held in Banjul, Gambia Oct. 26-27, 1993.

ICO Chief Criticizes UN Position on Bosnia

LD1111215792 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—The chief of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] Hamid Algabid Wednesday criticized the UN Security Council for turning down a request by Islamic countries calling for military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina by UN member states.

"The majority of UN members should impose this on the Security Council and we will keep pressing the Council within the framework of OIC," Algabid told IRNA. The OIC secretary general, here to participate in a meeting of the Islamic Development Bank, said all OIC members have done all within their power to help the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"The issue of military action will be discussed in an extraordinary meeting of OIC foreign ministers to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, upon a request by some Muslim states including Iran," Algabid said. The OIC chief made it clear that under the UN Charter the people who are attacked have the right to defend themselves.

Algabid also attributed acceptance of Bosnia-Hercegovina as a new member of the United Nations and suspension of former Yugoslavia's membership in the world body to the efforts made by Muslim states.

However, Alghabid said that all political efforts made so far to solve the plight of Bosnian Muslims, appeared inadequate and that Muslims favor a military action by the UN members in the embattled republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In case a committee is formed during the forthcoming meeting of OIC foreign ministers in Jeddah, it could study other options for assisting the Bosnian people and exert necessary pressure on the United Nations in this respect.

He lauded the Islamic Republic for its assistance to the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina and for its initiative to declare a week as a week of solidarity with those people.

The OIC secretary general also described as "successful" the 17th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank in Tehran and called for strengthening of economic relations among Muslim states.

Palestinian Affairs

Arab-Israeli Peace Agreements by Mar Anticipated

TA1011153492 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 9 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Diplomatic sources affirm that the present U.S. Administration will bring about the signing of "a statement of principles" between Israel and each Arab party. This will be followed by the implementation of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of next March, with peace agreements being signed between Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Those sources add that with Israel's consent, Washington has allowed the Palestinian side to choose the name that it wants for the form of the coming solution, which is based on the Camp David accords. The sources say that in the seventh round of negotiations the Israeli and Palestinian sides discussed "the first part" of substantive issues, although the Palestinian delegation did not mention that in its press statements. Neither did the delegation's information center, which in its statements focused on "human rights." [passage omitted]

AL-MANAR has learned that the new U.S. Administration, which will assume power in January, has informed the Palestinian leadership that it has no option other than accepting autonomy in accordance with the interpretation agreed on by the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

AL-MANAR has learned from high-level diplomatic sources that there is an inclination for signing a statement of intentions—or what diplomats are calling an agreement on agenda—between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations within the next few days, and that Jordan played a role in pushing toward this end so that the cohesion between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will remain, since all developments and changes are dictating this as there is no other option. [passage omitted]

* Sources Report Coming 'Arafat, al-Asad Meeting

93P400374 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani]

[Text] Damascus—Official Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian delegation currently in Damascus will be preparing for a visit by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss new political developments in the world and activity in the course of the peace process.

Under the chairmanship of Faruq al-Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Bureau, the Palestinian delegation arrived in the Syrian capital the day before yesterday and held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Shar'. Al-Qaddumi was accompanied to the Damascus talks by PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut and Fatah Central Committee member [Jamal] Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir).

While the Arab and Israeli delegations are preparing to resume the seventh round of peace negotiations in Washington, official Syrian sources informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT of [their] lack of optimism that any results might be reached in this round. They said that they have not yet found any positive, encouraging factors that might give an indication that any progress will be achieved in the coming negotiations.

'Arafat Sends Letter to al-Asad on Peace Process

NC1211165892 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Nov 92 p 1, 11

["Text" of a letter sent by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on 15 October]

[Text] His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad: Greetings. In the name of our Palestinian people, of my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my name, it pleases me to send warmest greetings and best wishes to your excellency and through you to your enlightened government and to the fraternal Syrian people.

Proceeding from the brotherly ties, common fate, and the continuing consultations between us on all issues and the hopes of our fraternal peoples and Arab nation, I write to you today on the perils threatening the peace process in which we agreed to participate based on the resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council's latest session in Algeria, on President Bush's initiative, and on the letters of invitation and assurances.

On 29 October, one year will have passed since negotiations started; one year was the period allowed for the negotiations in the letters of invitation and the assurances given to us and to the Arab parties participating in this process. By the end of the first year, on 30 October, the agreed upon implementation of the transitional stage on the Palestinian track should have begun, but deliberate Israeli stalling, which Yitzhaq Shamir admitted and Yitzhaq Rabin continues, led to an impasse on that track. The absence of sufficient international and Arab pressure let Israel continue to stall and seek unilateral settlements with the Arab parties.

You know that the expiration of this deadline without results gives Israel the green light to continue its error, games, and maneuvers to mark time and keep the initiative in its hands, free from any pressure or restrictions.

We believe the transitional stage on the Palestinian track should begin on 30 October 1992. In an official letter to the cosponsors of the peace conference, we requested that the transitional stage should not exceed one year. I would like to note that the PLO Central Council that

convened in Tunis in the middle of October emphasized that if the Israeli party and the two cosponsors fail to respond by rendering the process a success in the time specified, we should take the necessary measures to protect our people's interests following consultations with your excellency and the rest of the Arab brothers.

O His Excellency Brother President: Proceeding from this, we believe in the need for an international presence to protect our people and supervise the occupied territories starting now. The cosponsors should shoulder their responsibilities in this situation. The Israelis have rejected legislative elections and still insist on local administrative elections; on refusing to place Jerusalem on the agenda of talks; on continuing the construction of 11,000 housing units for new Jewish settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and 14,000 housing units in Jerusalem; on refusing to implement Security Council Resolution 242 on the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem in all stages; and on persisting in an iron-fist policy, repressing, blockading, starving our Palestinian people, and committing every crime against them and their Islamic and Christian sanctities. All this is taking place after the United States granted Israel 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees, assuring Israel's military superiority in the region and making Israel a depot for U.S. arms for use when necessary.

In view of these perils and fears, which I trust you share, we believe we must move swiftly on every level and consult at the highest levels with the Arab parties concerned with the peace process to study and tackle this serious situation and to take a unified stand on it and on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, particularly on the Palestinian track in which Israeli stalling and obstruction are clear.

I wish your excellency good health, happiness, and success in leading your fraternal people on the path to progress and prosperity. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Together to victory and liberated Jerusalem, with God almighty's help.

[Dated] Tunis, 29 Rabi' al-Thani 1413 of the Hegira, 15 October 1992

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

To His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus.

'Arafat on Peace Process, Clinton

LD1011192492 Nouakchott Mauritanian ORTM Television in Arabic 1606 GMT 10 Nov 92

["Exclusive" interview with Yasir 'Arafat by Hamma Ould Ahmadou Mamine in Nouakchott on 10 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mamine] Mr. President, on behalf of Mauritanian television, we welcome you to your second country Mauritania for giving us part of your precious time with this interview. The first question is about the dimensions and significance of your presence at this Maghreb summit.

['Arafat] I must thank brother President Ould Taya for this kind invitation on his behalf and in the name of Mauritania and the Maghreban states, an invitation that is very significant: Mauritania and the Maghreb states care for the Palestinian jihad, the Palestinian struggle, and the Palestinian leadership, and at their summit they insist that Palestine be present in the same place and at the same time. [passage omitted]

[Mamine] Mr. President, how do you assess—how does the PLO assess—the peace negotiations?

['Arafat] You want me to speak frankly? Regrettably, after a full year has passed, the year fixed for the negotiations, we have not arrived at anything concerning the Palestinian process, since the Rabin government is still following the same methods followed by the Shamir government with regard to the peace negotiations over the Palestinian process. The Israeli scheme, whether during the days of Shamir or currently with Rabin, is an attempt at normalizing Arab-Israeli relations at the expense of the Palestinian process, but I am convinced that my Arab brothers will never permit this Israeli maneuver to achieve its place or scope. At the five-country foreign ministers' conference which represented the cordon states, and at the seven-state foreign ministers' conference, i.e. the five states surrounding Israel in addition to an envoy of the Maghreb summit and an envoy of the Gulf summit, we agreed that a solution must be comprehensive covering all aspects of the issue, on all fronts.

Regarding the Palestinian process, Israel is still denying the implementation, or rather avoiding the carrying out of the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 242 on the Palestinian occupied territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem. Then, it insists that the subject of Jerusalem be completely excluded from the negotiations. Moreover, Israel rejects legislative elections and offers us only local elections to elect a local administration, whereas an agreement as far as we are concerned, presented by the two cosponsors of the conference, Russia and America, in the letters of guarantees and the letter of invitation means a Palestinian authority, the authority of a Palestinian provisional self-government [hukuma dhatiyah filistiniyah muaqqatah], an authority that comes only through a legislative council elected by the Palestinian people.

As I have already said, if they were not going to allow us to organize an election, I would have to invite all those who had previously been elected, be they in the popular unions, in the municipalities, in the trade unions, in the Red Crescent organizations, or in the women's organizations. All organizations with elected bodies will be

invited by us to convene at the first possible opportunity because we are not going to remain with tied hands in face of the Israeli conspiracy which is trying to gain time. [passage omitted]

[Mamine] There are the political talks which have been sponsored by the United States and Russia and there are economic talks....

['Arafat, interrupting] No, they are not only economic talks. There are two kinds of talks: bilateral talks, which are the most important. And as I have already told you, we have not achieved anything yet for the sake of the the Palestinian cause. Regrettably we have achieved nothing after a year's talk. That is why I have called, after a year of talks, for international protection and international supervision for our occupied territories. [passage omitted]

However, I should like to say something here: No agreement should be reached in the multilateral committees before reaching solutions at the bilateral talks, particularly on the Palestinian problem, because the Palestinian people should not be left alone facing the Israeli monster.

[Mamine] What do you expect from the new U.S. administration under Bill Clinton's leadership?

['Arafat] I hope that what he said during his electoral campaign is nothing more than campaign talk, particularly when he stated in an official and declared message that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. This is because up to now the U.S. administration and the whole world reject the Israeli view that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Greater Israel.

This is my hope. I sent him a congratulatory cable, but at the same time I indicated that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine.

We hope that he will translate into practice what he stated on human rights and democracy during his campaign. I would like to ask the following question: Where are the human rights of the Palestinian inside the occupied land in the face of this tyrant, this oppression, this siege, this battle of starvation that targets our people namely in Gaza Strip, in the face of attacks against our sacred Islamic and Christian places? As I told you, the latest of these attacks was targeted against holy al-Quds and also the latest attack against a church at the Mount of Olives, a Roman Orthodox church which was destroyed by this tyrant.

I would like to ask you the following question: If this church was demolished anywhere by any quarter other than the Israelis, what would have happened? A big uproar would have erupted. Has anybody heard about this story? Give me the picture ['Arafat holds up a picture of the demolished church], I would like to ask if this church was destroyed by any authority other than the Israeli authority, what would have happened in the world? I circulated the picture of this church to all world magazines and agencies, only one single paper in Europe published this picture, and this following a great deal of hard work. [passage omitted]

I would like to ask how western public opinion can remain silent on this issue. Is this not a betrayal of Jesus Christ?

[Mamine] Mr. President, you have exerted great efforts to put the Arab ranks on the correct course again. What have these efforts achieved?

['Arafat] In the name of God, I was not alone in doing so. As you know, my brothers here at the Maghreb summit also exerted much effort—all of them, without exception. So far those efforts have not yielded speedy results. We, as an Arab nation, Arab leaders and officials, are called on to go beyond what happened in the Gulf crisis and beyond the wounds that were inflicted in that crisis because we are facing a new international order: to be or not to be. Either this new international order will be at our own expense, the expense of our children and coming generations....[changes thought] History is merciless and it will have no mercy on anyone. Therefore, I call on all my brother Arab leaders to shoulder their responsibilities at this historic moment, to heal the wounds, and to restore Arab cohesion and Arab solidarity. God loves those who fight for His sake as one, as though they are a solid wall. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Sees No 'Tangible Success' in Talks

PM1211145192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 6

[Interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Qulaybi] A year has elapsed since the negotiation process began. How do you assess it at all the levels, especially the Palestinian-Israeli level?

[Qaddumi] A year has elapsed since that peace process began, but it has not been able to achieve tangible success. For over a year it has been confined to dialogues over various issues.

The Israeli delegation has been marking time, not moving forward, with the exception that it submitted the autonomy idea, whose content indicates that Palestinian territory is part of Israel—which is completely unacceptable.

Seven rounds of negotiations have been held, of which Shamir wasted five. In the last two rounds Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tried to impose administrative rule—which means that he, so he believes, wants to agree with the Palestinians inside the territories on administrative rule. He also wants this situation—that is, the self-administrative rule situation—to continue for five years during which he can impose the reality he wants, thus annexing this area to Israel.

Through this plan Rabin wants to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after a period of time during which he

will have moved on other fronts. Thus we see him excluding the Jerusalem issue and a discussion of this question and the settlement question as though the presence of these settlements is legitimate. And he is also refusing to withdraw from the Palestinian territories but willing to "redeploy his forces" ["tawdi' quwwatuh"]—that is, to return to the places from which he withdrew after a period of time. We also see him refusing to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights or legislative elections. And he does not believe that Resolution 242 applies to the Palestinian track, while claiming that it can be applied in a later stage. Add to this the Israeli forces' repressive practices against our people, Israel's frequent attacks on southern Lebanon, and its proposals for partial withdrawals from the Golan area.

All this proves that Israel is not serious about peace. All that has changed in the Israeli position since Rabin's arrival is the language he is speaking. [passage omitted]

If there is a desire for peace, Israel must announce its intention of withdrawing from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and halt settlement building. And it must not evade other issues. The foundations on which a political settlement is based are the Security Council resolutions. These resolutions do not in the slightest refer to self-rule or administrative rule. They stipulate the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. These territories include occupied Jerusalem. They also stipulate the need to find a just solution to the refugee question. So why do the Israelis—supported by the Americans—resort to evasion and demand engaging in negotiation as though we accept autonomy as basis for discussion?

We loudly say that we reject autonomy, because autonomy is for minorities. Whereas the Palestinian population is over twice the size of the Israeli population. This is why there is supposed to be a Palestinian state.

And why that long transitional period for which they are calling? We reject the five-year period completely. We did not agree to it. Thus the current talks, which I like to clearly call a debate, have not reached the level of negotiation.

Besides, the Israelis do not recognize the PLO officially and openly, when it is the one representing the Palestinian people and responsible for all their affairs.

Add to this the fact that the Israelis continue to resort to evasion even in the multilateral negotiations. They do not want PLO participation. And I say that the sponsor of the conference (the United States) has given Israel the right of veto because it does not want PLO or Palestine National Council members to participate. As far as we are concerned, this is completely unacceptable, especially as the multilateral negotiations are no more than seminars conducted among many of the members invited in line with the choice of the conference's sponsor.

So we say that a year has elapsed since the peace process began, but it has made no absolute achievement. What is regrettable is that the United States has agreed to the loan guarantees to Israel. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you not fear that the contrast in the withdrawals from the Arab fronts might lead to the signing of separate peace treaties between Israel and these states? And in such a case, who will guarantes for you that Israel will withdraw after five years from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967?

[Qaddumi] That is why we said that the five-year period is completely unacceptable. If it is a transitional period, it must be supervised by the United Nations in order to transfer authority to the Palestinian people. And that guarantees no Israeli link with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We believe that this link must end within a period not exceeding a year.

[Al-Qulaybi] A year from now?

[Qaddumi] A year as of the moment of agreement. A year has so far elapsed without any benefit. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] The Palestinian opposition talks about the existence of a bureaucratic organ inside the PLO, saying that this organ is the one rushing things and the negotiation process with all the risks it involves. There is also talk about the existence of opposition even inside Fatah with regard to the way in which the negotiation process is run. What is your personal attitude to all these matters?

[Qaddumi] The assessment is based not on personal views but on the group's view. In Fatah decisions are made and implemented regardless of the existence of opposition. The same applies to the PLO. We respect constructive opposition very much. And it is the democracy we adopted which has protected the PLO from division and safeguarded and strengthened its political standing among Arab and international circles. We should continue this. As I said, there is an opposition, and we respect it. But we tell the opposition that there should be direct dialogue between us, not on the pages of newspapers, because that is unilateral dialogue. We must meet within numerous frameworks to talk with one another in order to achieve the desired results. Such a dialogue took place inside the Central Council at its recent session in Tunis. And in fact this is the sound way to safeguard the peace process in accordance with the National Council. And a constructive opposition is entitled to be informed of all the details of what we are doing, because Palestine is for us and the opposition, not just us only. There is no position adopted by Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] or Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. It is a general position which we agree upon and discuss to advance the process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] There is talk at present about the existence of a ready U.S. plan for a settlement in the Middle East. What truth is there in this?

[Qaddumi] As the sole superpower the United States has its policy and plans with regard to organizing world conditions. And it has called for building the new world order. This is known to all world states. And we are currently experiencing an uncertain situation. In other words, political conditions in many countries have not stabilized. We are experiencing a phase of ambiguity. And the United States is also suffering from economic recession, and so are the European states. We should take account of all these international changes.

Perhaps the United States has prepared a plan for the Middle East crisis, but not everything it prepares becomes ordained.

We too have our own plans, and the United States should implement international legitimacy just as it implemented it in other places. And international legitimacy in this context means Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal, regardless of U.S. plans. We are not in a confrontation with it, but with Israel. U.S. interests necessitate that there be stability and security in the Middle East region. It knows that such stability and security can only be achieved by the Palestinian people obtaining their inalienable national rights and building their independent Palestinian state.

[Al-Qulaybi] A Jordanian-Israeli agreement in principle on the agenda for the negotiations was announced recently. What is the Palestinian position on this agreement?

[Qaddumi] It is not an agreement in the known sense of an agreement. It is just an agreement on the agenda and the issues to be discussed. Actually people tend to just read the word agreement and do not see the word agenda.

We should know full well that the Israeli aim is to create disunity among the Arab parties. It is not necessary to make the same rate of progress on all Arab fronts, but we are agreed that there must be a comprehensive solution, that this solution should be agreed at the same time, and that there should be a withdrawal timetable on all fronts.

The point that determines a comprehensive solution is Israel's recognition of withdrawal from all Arab fronts with varying timetables for withdrawal.

[Al-Qulaybi] The Jordanian-Israeli agreement in principle stipulates that the agenda should include the refugee issue, the occupied territories, the sharing of water resources, and Resolution 242, as mentioned in the English translation. Does this agreement mean that Jordan has offered concessions to Israel?

[Qaddumi] I do not believe that there is a Jordanian concession, because the Palestinian track has become an independent track. We are negotiating over the Palestinian issue, and our brothers in Jordan are backing us in all these negotiations.

[Al-Qulaybi] As is known, Abu-al-Lutf advocates the establishment of strategic relations between Syria and the PLO. But it seems that Damascus' continued embracing of the Palestinian opposition and refusal to give the green light to Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Syria confirms that Syrian-Palestinian relations are still suffering some tension.

[Qaddumi] First of all I emphasize that there is no opposition to the PLO among the Palestinian people. If you mean opposition to the present leadership, it is a natural thing which we welcome. This is because criticism, constructive criticism, and opposition are fundamental factors which we have accepted and adopted as a political program in our relations as resistance factions.

Democratic principles are the basis governing our relations. Any one who wants to oppose can oppose. But we say that this opposition should be within the recognized frameworks and institutions. In other words, there should be a bilateral dialogue between the two opposed sides, not a unilateral dialogue on the pages of newspapers or unilateral seminars. The masses must hear both sides. This is why we always say that any meetings involving the opposed sides must be fruitful and productive, as was the case with the Central Council meetings—that is, when the opposition was listened to. We sought the group's opinion, and the great majority were in favor of the PLO leadership. We welcome this opposition and indeed respect it.

As for our relations with Syria, there was estrangement between us and our brothers in Damascus, but we opened the door and made contacts—which is an achievement. Coordination started on a limited scale and then became comprehensive within the cordon states framework. We discuss each issue in order to draw up a view for our action after each round of negotiations. These discussions are not without differences. But as a result of the failure to achieve progress in the negotiations, we see many nervous statements here and there, which are often misinterpreted. [passage omitted]

Mahmud 'Abbas Denies Reports of PLO Division

LD1211192792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, has made a press statement in which he said:

On Sunday 8 November the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT printed a dispatch from its correspondent in Tunis containing fabricated and malicious reports about so-called differences inside the Palestinian leadership. Those who have been circulating these false reports are seeking to offend the PLO and its leadership, who are leading a stubborn struggle to seize our people's rights, and foremost their right to return, self-determination, and the building of an independent state of Palestine, whose capital is Holy Jerusalem.

I, in my capacity as a member of the PLO Executive Committee, confirm that all members of the leadership stand firmly united behind the leader of our revolution, brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

I categorically deny these fabricated reports, which have been invented by some who lack the courage to declare themselves with regard to so-called differences in the Palestinian leadership. I wish the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, in the interest of its credibility and reputation, not to publish such lies, which offend all of us.

PFLP-GC Source Denies Jibril Met Qaddumi

JN1211185792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] A responsible source within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

Some news media have reported that PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril met with Faruq Qaddumi during Qaddumi's visit to Damascus.

We would like to emphasize that this report is baseless, and that PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril actually met with Abu-Mahir Ghunaym [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym], a member of the [Fatah] Central Committee. During their meeting, they reviewed current developments in the Palestine question and the negative impact of the Madrid-Washington course on the Palestine question, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the PLO. Also, the PFLP-GC's position that rejects the current negotiations was emphasized. The PFLP-GC affirmed the need to back away from the approach of bargaining and concessions, which does severe damage to the Palestine question—the land, people, and rights—as well as the need for immediate withdrawal of the negotiating team from Washington, considering that it does not represent the Palestinian people.

'Arafat's Address on Intifadah Anniversary

JN1111185792 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Address by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "to the masses of our Palestinian people" on the "anniversary of the blessed intifadah" under the headline "Do Not Let the Enemy Rest"; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Brothers, beloved ones: When the change in Israel brought about a new government, our disputes were profound. We were neither excited nor deluded, especially since the Rabin government took enough time and support from the U.S. Government—$10 billion in loan guarantees and a pledge to guarantee Israel's military edge in the region. However, we are absolutely disillusioned; we say that the PLO, which resisted the wars launched by the Labor and Likud alike, is capable of countering the enemy on all fronts—from the revolutionaries in southern Lebanon to the stone-throwing children in our occupied territory and strugglers in all arenas of struggle. Let everyone understand that those could not manage to break our self-confidence through wars will not be able to break it through maneuvers or negotiations. A mountain cannot be moved by the wind. [passage omitted]

Brothers, beloved ones, our national unity has been and will remain, God willing, the solid foundation of our Palestinian home, its protective shield, and the sharp sword that defends it and wards off its waylaying adversaries. Based on our experience throughout the stages of our national struggle, national Palestinian unity has been a constant target for our people's enemies, who meditated the idea of destroying the Palestinian bastion from within, having lost any hope of destroying it through war, battles, and conspiracies. This unity has been made and protected by the people and fostered by the PLO through its strong adherence to deep-rooted democratic militant traditions in our national life and internal relations. Through this unity, we have forged ahead securely and with a high degree of self-confidence. Now, some nondemocratic excesses have surfaced, albeit on a limited scale, by those who wish to force our revolution into the furnace of outside Arab and non-Arab custodianship, which we have long resisted in defense of our independent Palestinian decisionmaking, since any foreign custodianship would harm our unified Palestinian home. Therefore, the PLO—the leader of the Palestinian people's struggle, their sole, legitimate representative, and, more importantly, the moral homeland of the Palestinian people wherever they are located—addresses a brotherly, responsible appeal to all nationalist Palestinian forces, with their various intellectual orientations and trends, to intensify national dialogue and to adopt it as the first and last means to (?rationalize) and strengthen brotherly relations. Any failure to observe our democratic traditions in the building of domestic relations, and resorting to other means, will only lead to providing appropriate circumstances for the waylaying enemy to undermine our bastion and to shake the earth beneath our feet, God forbid. Any outside party cherishing the illusion of destroying the PLO or weakening its existence in our national life or in the region will find nobody among our militant people to extend a hand of cooperation to it in this exposed destructive endeavor. Our people, who have built the PLO, will not permit anyone, under any circumstances, to harm them. These outside hands are the same ones which adopted an indifferent stand as the Palestinian people were being slain in Beirut and the camps [in Lebanon]. For their own purposes, these parties will not hesitate to sow chaos among the ranks of our pure, faithful, and militant community.

Therefore, we call on all the sectors and trends of our people, and on all factions and forces without exception,

to hold a more democratic and responsible dialogue on the domestic front. We call on all to gather within our Palestinian house, within the PLO, so that we will, together, make our national decisions, and so that we can jointly chart a sound course toward the objective, toward Palestine.

Brothers, beloved ones: In the same manner that we think about our Palestinian house, we think with the same depth and responsibility about the affairs of our Arab nation, the symbol of our glorious affiliation. For some time, we have been trying to make of the peace decision, with all its pros and cons, an Arab decision, in terms of comprehensiveness and bases. From this premise, we have been and continue to be concerned with Arab coordination and the unity of the Arab stand, in spite of the many tribulations we have experienced in this respect. The wounds of the Gulf crisis are still deep. We try with all our power, assisted in this by all the sincere sons of our Arab nation, to attain a united Arab stand. This is not some kind of political action. It is more far-reaching. It is a message and an objective; the mature sense of belonging to the same fate, objective, and future; and the option of existing or not under the canopy of the serious international changes and within this new world order, and so that it will not established at our expense or that of future generations.

That is why we call on all to forget the wounds and bypass past events so that we may proceed and not have these events precede us for the sake of Arab unity, Arab solidarity, and our Arab future. History will record all this and will forgive no one.

We also express hope that the new U.S. Administration will provide the necessary momentum for establishing a just and comprehensive peace that takes into consideration the national political rights of our people, in accordance with international legitimacy and its resolutions, and also international protection for our people and holy places, as well as the resumption of dialogue with the PLO. We also take pride in the performance of the Palestinian negotiating team, which has been a Palestinian model of humanity and civilization and has aroused the interest and respect of the world, just as the PLO has been a model both inside and outside [Palestine].

Brothers and beloved ones: The forgers of victory within our radiant march, and the forgers of Arab pride in spite of the occupation jails and detention camps; the children, women, and men of my country who uphold the banner of the homeland; the guardians of al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Nativity; and the free and militant men of our people: Let us scorch the earth under the feet of the invaders; let the jihad become entrenched and authentic; let the strike forces move in every inch of our dear land; let organizational, political, and popular committees, as well as committees for solidarity and for good and reform, be set up everywhere.

Brothers, beloved ones: Do not let the enemy rest. However, let our people rest. The masses and their hearts [words indistinct]. Let us all safeguard the flow of life in our people's veins. This is a sacred duty that the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah should take into consideration, and we all must be guided by it and follow up on it.

Let us take to account all those who try to (?harass) our people [word indistinct]. You, the revolutionaries of my country, are the sources of light and the rays of hope for this militant people. From this premise, let us move together toward victory and martyrdom as one man with an undaunted determination and unflinching will, fierce against the enemies, merciful among us, and armed with the courage of those who have right on their side and the intrepidity of faithful strugglers. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Policeman Shot; Several FIS Members Arrested

LD1111234492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] We have learned from the assistant public attorney at the judicial court of Djelfa that an unidentified person opened fire this morning on a policeman who was standing guard outside the court. The injured policeman was taken to the hospital. Our source also reported that the assailant may have fled in a car that was waiting for him nearby.

In Telagh, in the province of Sidi-Bel-Abbes, the gendarmerie yesterday arrested eight people who are all affiliated with the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. They were charged with collecting funds without a license and with forging documents and receipts.

In the framework of the current investigation aimed at dismantling what is known as the fax network in the east of the country, a university lecturer in civil engineering—a former member of the banned FIS—has been arrested. A fax machine and documents on the manufacture of homemade bombs were found in his flat.

In the province of Blida, a series of attacks were carried out in the past few days against citizens with the aim of stealing their hunting rifles. According to security sources in the province, acts of sabotage against telephone installations were also committed.

Authorities Suspend Magistrates for Extortion

LD1211104192 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In Algeria five magistrates have been suspended, including the powerful public prosecutor of Algiers Court. This is the first measure of this kind announced by the authorities. Anne Dissez in Algiers.

[Dissez] Cleaning up the judicial apparatus and putting an end to shady deals—this is the undertaking [Belaid] Abdesselam made when he formed his government. President Boudiaf had also made the same profession of faith—he did not have the time to initiate such action. The five magistrates dismissed by the minister are a first in the annals of Algerian justice. They are due to be brought before disciplinary committees. Some are accused of having misused resources which the state had put at their disposal in view of their position, and others of having extorted money from citizens who had dealings with the courts. [passage omitted]

Arms Traffickers, Smugglers Arrested

LD1211230692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Criminal Investigation Department [CID] officers in the province of Setif have dismantled an armed group that was engaged in illicit weapons trading. They have also arrested one person in Bougaa, who was charged with possessing a submachine gun. Faycal Ghames has the details:

[Begin Ghames recording] This is the fourth group of its kind to be dismantled by CID officers in the province of Setif in a month. As a result, 47 automatic weapons were recovered. The group dismantled today was made up of 16 individuals and specialized in obtaining and trading in weapons. The group was operating in Bouandes, Beida Bordj, Setif, and Barika. Barika is in the province of Batna.

The CID officers in the province of Setif who dismantled this group recovered 10 Beretta, (Perfecta), and (Commandor) automatic weapons. After appearing before the court, 15 of the 16 members of the group were remanded into custody and were charged with possessing and trading in weapons without a license. These charges are stipulated in Article Seven of the legislative decree on the fight against subversion and terrorism. The remaining member of the group was pardoned in accordance with Article 40 of the aforementioned legislative decree because the person concerned had taken the initiative of surrendering his weapons of his own volition. Inquiries carried out by CID officers in the province of Setif revealed that the region of Barika was still supplying other networks with weapons.

Security forces in Bougaa in the province of Setif recently arrested one individual and charged him with possessing a firearm without a license. A Chinese-made 7.62 mm submachine gun and 61 cartridges of the same caliber were recovered from the man. The accused is still being questioned and will later appear before the court. [end recording]

Twenty-six individuals charged with printing leaflets harming public order and with collecting donations without a license appeared yesterday before the examining magistrate of the court of El Oued. A judicial source at the court reported that the examining magistrate had ordered 19 of them remanded into custody, while the remaining seven were released on bail. The same source added that this group had been arrested by the National Gendarmeries and that most of its members were affiliated with the banned Islamic Salvation Front.

Last Monday, the National Gendarmeries in Tamanrasset arrested four Nigerian nationals and one Kenyan who had 50 kg of processed Indian cannabis in their possession. They appeared before the court of Tamanrasset and were charged with processing and selling drugs and with entering and staying illegally in the country.

Also in the province of Tamanrasset, security forces arrested three people on Tuesday and others managed to escape. Two trucks carrying Lahda [powdered milk] and baby milk were seized in the operation. Over 1,100 tins of Lahda were recovered, which were about to be smuggled out of the country.

73 Detainees From Tamanrasset Centers Released

LD1111093692 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Seventy-three detainees were released today from the two security centers of In Salah and In Amguel, in Tamanrassat, according to an informed source. The source said that the detainees were from various governorates in the north of the homeland.

Egypt

Musa Views Clinton Victory, Peace Process

NC1211151192 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Sami Kulayb from Paris]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has ruled out U.S. backing for the Middle East settlement abating following Bill Clinton's election as U.S. president.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR on the eve of meeting French President Francois Mitterrand, Musa said the Jordanian-Israeli agreement harms no one. He stressed that arranging a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad or Jordanian King Husayn is not part of current Egyptian diplomacy. He expressed optimism over the possible implementation of the Damascus Declaration in view of recent developments in the Gulf.

Musa arrived in Paris the day before yesterday on a two-day official visit during which he met his French counterpart Roland Dumas and government officials and economists. At the end of the visit, Musa met President Mitterrand. While Arab sources in Paris have confirmed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will visit Paris next month to meet Mitterrand before Mitterrand's visit to Jordan and Israel, Musa said: "He is in the process of setting a date for the visit."

Musa began his interview with AL-SAFIR by stressing the importance of Egyptian-French relations, saying: "Egypt and France work closely on several topics concerning regional issues, the peace process, and bilateral relations. Whenever Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand meet and whenever bilateral relations are consolidated, this speeds the Middle East peace process."

Asked if Mubarak will be carrying new settlement proposals, particularly as he visited Paris not long ago, Musa said: "There is no longer anything new in the Middle East problem, but the important thing, we believe, is to closely follow the negotiations. Ending the situation that resulted from the 1967 defeat occupies a major part of Egyptian diplomacy."

On his expectations of U.S. foreign policy under Clinton's administration, Musa said: It is clear from Clinton's statements that the bases and established issues of U.S. foreign policy will remain as they are. The U.S. policy is not a policy of parties or administrations, but a general and continuing one. I do not expect U.S. backing for the peace process to abate. And I do not believe a Democratic or Republican administration will change those things that are established. You remember that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was a Democrat and that the Camp David agreement was concluded during his tenure. This agreement led to Israel's withdrawal from occupied Egyptian territory and the birth of the notion of an interim period in the Palestinian framework."

Musa added: "The Republican administration took numerous initiatives even before George Bush became president. The Bush administration intensified these initiatives and placed the peace process in its current framework, which is based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and does not differ much from the Camp David framework. There is continuity in U.S. policy and backing, so we have no fears about this."

The Egyptian foreign minister said that although we cannot say anything tangible has been achieved in the peace talks, we can, in all fairness, state: "There is a feeling of progress and of a move forward. We can also point out that the peace process and the Washington talks are proceeding much better than under Yitzhaq Shamir."

On whether he sees the Jordanian-Israeli agreement as a violation of the principle of not concluding bilateral agreements, Musa said: "Agreeing on an agenda is a normal procedure, which does not necessarily lead to a peace agreement. They are simply defining the subjects of negotiation, in which I see nothing that could disturb anyone."

Musa pointed out that holding a meeting between Rabin and al-Asad or Rabin and King Husayn depends on the desire of the three parties, but he added: "This is not part of current Egyptian diplomatic activity."

Referring to the reason for the failure of Moroccan King Hassan II's endeavors during his recent Arab tour to hold an Arab summit, Musa said: "A summit needs time and preparation; perhaps the time has not yet come for such a step."

On the border dispute with Sudan over the area of Hala'ib and the Egyptian-Sudanese Joint Committee's not reaching a solution, Musa said the committee did not fail. He added: "The committee still stands and will meet again soon, because the continuation of its meetings is important and positive for the two countries' relations." He said he has no information about a meeting soon between the Egyptian and Sudanese presidents.

On his country's stand if the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over the three Gulf islands is referred to the Security Council, Musa said: "We are against any step that seeks to acquire others' territory by force and we believe there must be a peaceful solution. Iran is a fraternal state, so there is no need for aggravation. And there is no need for Iran to aggravate

the situation by occupying territory. As for referring the issue to the Security Council, this concerns the country involved and we will support a UAE decision."

On the Damascus Declaration, Musa said: "It still stands and consultations are underway on its implementation, particularly in view of recent events in the Gulf, which give an added impetus to the declaration and highlight the need for its implementation; otherwise, all our discussions on this will be fruitless."

Editorial Views Tasks Facing Clinton in Region

NC1211160692 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Nov 92 p 9

[Editorial: "Clinton and the Arab Region"]

[Text] Although President-elect Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election was basically due to the deterioration in the U.S. economy in recent years and the failure of defeated President George Bush to turn the economy round, foreign policy remains extremely important for the United States, which is considered the only effective superpower after the former Soviet Union's political and economic collapse.

In the Arab region, U.S. interests require the U.S. president to focus on several issues, such as the peace settlement between the Arabs and Israel and geostrategic stability and balance in the Gulf area. The new U.S. President can accumulate for himself and his country a huge asset in the Arab region if he places the process of a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict among his priorities in a way that would contribute to an Arab-Israeli agreement guaranteeing security and peace and the right to self-determination for all the region's countries and peoples. The new U.S. President can gain for himself and his country much popular support in the Arab region if he tackles the geostrategic balance in the Gulf area in a way that would establish a strong basis for stability there. Perhaps it would be necessary to revoke the total economic embargo on Iraq and end its devastating effects on the Iraqi people, especially with this embargo strongly jeopardizing the balance in that area. Perhaps its damaging effects on stability and peace in the Gulf are greater than any benefit sought by the United States or the West.

Clinton 'Initiative' To Call Mubarak Praised

NC1311123492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 13 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "Egypt, the United States, and the Peace Process" an editorial in AL-AHRAM says there is no reason to fear that the Middle East peace process will be damaged by the departure of President Bush's administration and the advent of a new administration led by Bill Clinton. This is in view of the repeated assurances made by the president-elect that he will continue President Bush's endeavors to support the peace process and encourage all parties to keep at it until the desired goal is attained. The desire goal is a peace in line with the rules of international legality.

The paper adds: Perhaps what confirms this belief about Clinton's desire to support the peace process is his initiative to call President Mubarak to express his appreciation for Mubarak's role in promoting the Middle East peace process. This Clinton initiative followed two similar initiatives in which he expressed his eagerness to help move the peace forward in two telephone calls to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The paper notes that if all these encouraging signs in the U.S. position seem clear, this increases the responsibility of the parties involved to proceed with the talks and take advantage of U.S. interest by showing less intransigent and hard-line positions and more flexibility, without compromising each party's basic requirements for security and sovereignty.

The paper concludes by saying: We could say that President Mubarak's talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo the day before yesterday are proof of Egypt's continued commitment to play an active role, which is met with satisfaction by all the direct and indirect parties. The talks also prove the Palestinian desire to further benefit from Egypt's negotiating experience and not to miss an opportunity to achieve a just and honorable peace that could end the long years of suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Musa, 'Arafat Hold 3d Meeting

NC1211195592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat held a third round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this evening. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Political Department Director Faruq Qaddumi, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

The conferees are scheduled to complete discussion on the developments in the Palestinian issue and coordination of the Egyptian and Palestinian positions in the upcoming stage to advance the peace process and reach a fair settlement on the Palestinian issue.

Comment on Peace Process

NC1211214592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Nov (MENA)—Following the third round of talks which he held with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening, Palestinian president

Yasir 'Arafat said that they discussed the various aspects of the Palestinian issue, including the situation in the occupied territories, the bilateral negotiations, and the multilateral talks.

He pointed out that the multilateral talks' refugee committee succeeded in meeting in Canada today with all members present because of the efforts which Egypt and 'Amr Musa have made. He added that the PLO regards the meeting of this committee as a positive step because the issue which the refugee committee is discussing is important. He noted that this issue is connected with implementing UN Resolution 194, which pertains to the Palestinian right of return.

Asked about the possibility of presenting a Palestinian plan to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during his planned visit to Israel next Sunday, the Palestinian president said there is no Palestinian plan to submit to Peres, but that there are some ideas which are being discussed with the Egyptian brothers. We are attempting to lay down constructive foundations to promote the peace process, he said. 'Arafat added that Egypt is a partner in the peace process. He explained that the Egyptian-Palestinian meetings are not sessions of talks, but working meetings.

Regarding the Palestinian fear that a Jordanian-Israeli or Syrian-Israeli agreement might be concluded, Palestinian president 'Arafat said that the Palestinians have no fears on this account. He explained that the Palestinians are aware that the Israelis are trying to make progress on the other fronts while obstructing action on the Palestinian front. He added that regaining any inch of Arab territory is a gain for the Arab nation.

Commenting on the same point, 'Amr Musa said it is important, particularly after discussing the numerous ideas about the negotiations. Musa asserted that there are no Palestinian fears about progress on the other fronts, noting that what is important is that this should not delay progress on the Palestinian front. He declared: What we must focus on is that progress also must be made on the Palestinian front on the grounds that the Palestinian issue is the core of the current regional conflict and it must be resolved along with all the other crises. We are in the process of seeking a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict on the basis of exchanging land for peace, the restoration of Palestinian rights, and security for all parties.

The Palestinian president stressed the importance of settling the issue of Jerusalem.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said that contacts are under way to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace process. He said that for this reason, a Palestinian delegation has visited Jordan, Syria, and Egypt. He remarked that the date of this meeting will be determined after the current round of bilateral talks is over.

Official Accuses Iran of Undermining Stability

NC1311104292 Cairo MENA in English 0846 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—[passage omitted] At a rally in Aswan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and General Secretary of the ruling majority National Democratic Party Dr. Yusuf Wali declared that Iran was attempting to strike at stability in Egypt by inciting extremist groups and supplying them with money and weapons, the three newspapers reported prominently on their front-pages. Wali said that Egypt was watching Iran's moves and its attempts to strike at Egypt's stability.

During the rally which was also attended by Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, the deputy prime minister declared that stray youths were trying to impose terrorism on Egypt in the interst of the nation's enemies, the papers said.

He further declared that Egypt was not in the dark insofar as action by nations close to the commonwealth states was concerned in their effort to procure nuclear weapons and weapons of mass-destruction, the dailies added. [passage omitted]

Islamists Win 3 Percent of Local Council Vote

NC1211160792 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p 11

[Excerpts] The Islamic Alliance will win only 3 percent of last Tuesday's [3 November] local council poll in Egypt. The alliance won in 75 of the 2,778 electoral constituencies. A run-off is scheduled for 10 November in 122 constituencies in which the Alliance obtained court orders allowing it to field party tickets, overruling a government decision to ban what it said were illegal party tickets.

The Alliance could slightly improve its 3-percent hold on local councils, depending on the Muslim Brotherhood's performance in the run-off elections in the Nile delta area. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, assistant secretary general of the Labor Party, has told AFP that the elections were marred with fraud by the ruling National Democratic Party, which won control of most of the local councils. Barakat said the Labor Party has filed court cases disputing the election results.

Some 48 hours after the election, not all the final returns had been announced. [passage omitted]

Tourist Attackers Identified; Search Continues

NC1311080792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Qina, 13 Nov (MENA)—The confession made by suspect Bastawi 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-al-Majd, who took part in the armed attack against the tourist bus in Qina

yesterday, has revealed significant information about the identity of his three partners, who opened fire with automatic rifles on the bus. Seventeen German tourists were in the bus during the attack.

During last night's interrogations, the suspect said that the extremist groups plan on striking at Egyptian tourism by repeatedly attacking foreign tourists in various areas in Upper Egypt.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry said the suspect's confessions will help security forces quickly apprehend the three criminals still at large. The suspect revealed their names and the role of each one in executing this criminal operation.

Meanwhile, the security service last night arrested the suspect's cousin, Sa'd Amin Abu-al-Majd, who transported the criminals in his pickup truck from the scene of attack to a nearby village. Security forces are currently raking certain villages before arresting the criminals.

Sudan

Palestinian Envoy on Clinton's Election

EA1211090292 Khartoum SUNA in English 1626 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (SUNA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Sudan, Abu Raja'i, has ruled out the occurrence of any new change in U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian problem following election of Bill Clinton to the presidency. Speaking to SUNA Wednesday [11 November], Abu Raja'i said Palestinians consider all American presidents are alike in their bias and support to the Israeli enemy.

All previous American administrations had played a dangerous role by enabling the Zionist entity to possess such a huge military might [and] nuclear weapons, the ambassador said. He accused the foreign policy of outgoing U.S. President of favouring Israel during the peace talks. This besides U.S. refusal to recognise the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, despite the fact that it is a major party to the conflict, Abu Raja'i said.

He further referred to unwillingness of USA to compel Israel to implement U.N. resolutions, which represents a sharp contrast to the American position as regards Iraq. "The USA is adopting double standards," he stressed. Abu Raja'i further cited U.S. tolerance to terrorist practices by the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories, its continuation to present loans to Israel and the American silence toward Israeli declaration of al-Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital. Clinton is similar to Bush as Rabin is not different from Shamir, Abu Raja'i concluded.

UN Representative on Relations With U.S.

EA1211221592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Nov (SUNA)—Sudan's permanent representative to the U.N, Ahmad Sulayman, has refuted allegations circulated recently by some American officials on famine in the Sudan and the security situation in the south. During a meeting of the permanent representatives of African countries recently, called by Sulayman, [he] has affirmed Sudan's keenness to maintain good relations with the United States despite the fact that some official circles in the U.N. tended to be hostile against some governments. He pointed out that the Sudan is aware of the aims of the campaigns against it, especially following the military defeats which were inflicted on the outlaws and the splits [which] occurred within their ranks.

Sulayman further reaffirmed during the meeting Sudan Government's seriousness to provide food for all the Sudanese at different areas, denying existence of famine in the Sudan. He affirmed that the government has adopted a number of serious measures for relief and resettlement of displaced people. Sulayman has reemphasized that the outlaws movement was responsible for the recent killing of U.N. relief workers.

Al-Bashir on Duties of People's Police Force

EA1311093692 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has held his regular meeting with leaders of the information and media organs at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

At the beginning of his speech, His Excellency spoke about the people's police law which was recently approved by the Council of Ministers. He said the idea of establishing the people's police followed the success achieved by the idea of people's defense and the moral support received by the Armed Forces in the operational theaters. He affirmed that the people's police aims at entrenching Islamic values, establishing a Muslim society, and inculcating the values of solidarity and mutual assistance in society, in addition to plugging gaps in the operation of the regular police forces and preserving security. He pointed out that responsibility for security is a responsibility of every citizen and is not confined to the official organs.

He added that among the duties of the people's police are organizing patrols in residential areas and markets, protecting the environment and civil defense in the event of disaster, and any other tasks entrusted to it. He added that the people's police is not regarded as a substitute for the regular police, pointing out that there are tasks that are the sole responsibility of the regular police, such as search operations.

Lt. Col. 'Umar al-Bashir said that the tasks of the people's police also include ordering what is good and prohibiting what is abominable, combating vice and dealing with issues affecting citizens in residential areas. His Excellency affirmed the need for concerted official and people's efforts to render the tasks of the people's police successful, pointing out the need to combat the past negative of the police prior to the establishment of a police of the Islamic society. [passage omitted]

Committee Begins Talks With Somali Officials

EA1211193692 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (SUNA)—The technical [talks] between the delegation of the Sudanese Committee for Supporting the Somali People [Committee for the Salvation of the Somali People], affiliated to the Arab and Islamic People's Congress, and specialists in Gen Aidid's government of the Somali United Congress [United Somali Congress], were Tuesday [10 November] started in Mogadishu.

The first meeting between the two sides decided formation of joint sub-committees in the spheres of education and health so as to work out a six-month emergency programme and another comprehensive one to be implemented in the future covering the different development fields. Members of the Sudanese committee's delegation told SUNA correspondent that they will call on all the Somali factions to join the implementation of these programmes in order to ensure that all the Somali regions will benefit from such programmes and services.

Meanwhile, representatives of the government of General Mohamed Farah Aidid explained that the strategy of their national alliance is based on separating relief from politics, calling for equal distribution of humanitarian aid among different regions. They stated that the programme of the National Somali Alliance [Somali National Alliance] is composed of five stages which are the call upon the international community to assist the Somali people, provision of security so as to ensure arrival of relief to the needy people and safety of relief workers, reestablishment of government bodies, carrying out rehabilitation programmes and convening a general conference for (?reviving) reconciliation between the conflicting factions. The meetings of the joint sub-committees will end sittings on Wednesday [11 November] by issuance of a joint communique.

SPLA Nasir Faction Member Quits Over Rights

AB1011164692 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Nov 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Another squabble has broken out in southern Sudan's faction within the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel movement. Fifteen months ago, the SPLA split into two factions; the Torit and Nasir factions. The Nasir faction was led by Lam Akol and Riak Machar, and this year, SPLA founder John Garang's deputy broke away from the Torit faction. Well today, Dr. (Ash al-Mai) Deng, a leading member of the Nasir faction since the split, announced that he, too, was quitting. Up till now, he has been one of their main spokesman in Nairobi. On the line, Robin White asked Dr. Deng why he was leaving the Nasir faction.

[Begin recording] [Deng] What I can tell you is that the question now for human rights is not respected in the Nasir faction. There is no justice; justice is denied or carried forward, and I feel that...[changes thought] you see, in a [word indistinct] situation to be fighting for the rights of the people, because the people in my constituency and the broadbase constituency would like me to deliver goods to them but I am not doing anything of that kind.

[White] But specifically what has been done in the Nasir faction that you object to? You talked about human rights abuses. What specifically are you talking about?

[Deng] Robin, if you can recall in September, last year, October, November, all through up to March, there has been a lot of killing you see in the districts of Kongor, Bo, Yerol, which is the district that I come from, the district of Rombeg, the district of Goriak and Varel Gazal, a lot of cattle were looted, human beings were abducted, for that matter, and ended up in slavery. You see, I remained in the Nasir faction for 14 months to see (?to it that) all these affairs are corrected, and the moment I am talking with you now, nothing has been done so far.

Human beings still remain in captivity, the property in form of cattle in their thousands still remain, you see, in the territory of the Nasir faction and those who have died, for that matter, they have never been compensated. So I see that there is no justice at all. On the other hand, there is this question of the war crimes. Up till now, Dr. Riak has never done anything regarding the war crimes, and the latest incident was in August, this year—which is two months from now—in which a number of SPLA soldiers coming from the Dinka nationality were killed, and I will like to recall here a judge, Michael Manyone, who comes from Bo district. He became a victim in [word indistinct]. They were shot, you see, while they were eating their dinner in one of the evenings in August, and nothing has been done. So, the question of human rights, and taking the criminals, you see, to the Court of Justice, you see, has never been practiced in the Nasir faction.

[White] Presumably these people who have been killed, have been killed in fighting between the Nasir faction and John Garang's faction.

[Deng] Yes, they fall into two categories: There are those who were actually killed in fighting, and there were those who were killed in cold blood, like the judge I have just mentioned before you now, Judge Michael Manyone, plus four other very high-ranking officers. You see, they were killed in Nasir, last August, you see, in one of the

evenings. They were not engaged in any fighting. They were killed simply because they belonged to a particular ethnic group.

[White] Which ethnic group?

[Deng] The Dinka ethnic group.

[White] So what are you now going to do? Are you going to rejoin John Garang?

[Deng] Not at all, Robin. I will never rejoin John Garang because why I rebelled against him from day one, those reasons are still there: the question of democratization, the question of dictatorship, the question of the human rights. They still remain there. [end recording]

Kuwait

Prime Minister Expresses Gratitude to Bush

LD1211235292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Nov (KUNA)—His Highness [HH], the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, has expressed Kuwait's deep feelings of amity, appreciation, and gratitude toward U.S. President George Bush.

In a message HH sent recently to President Bush, HH stressed that these feelings will grow stronger and deeper with the passage of time and that successive Kuwaiti generations will always remember with appreciation, admiration, and gratitude his brave, principled stance against Iraq's tyrannical occupation of Kuwait. They will remember his firm determination since the first hours of the invasion to defeat this bestial aggression and to expel the aggressive invaders from Kuwait. He added that President Bush has become, in the eyes of all Kuwaitis, a symbol of bravery and of resolve to reject aggression, confront tyrants, uphold right and justice, and defend freedom and peace in the world.

HH the heir apparent and prime minister also said in his message that President Bush has played a major role in bringing about worldwide transformations that have changed the course of history and made the world a better and safer place. HH added that Kuwait is looking forward to President Bush's visit to welcome him and express to him the feelings of amity and respect of the sons of Kuwait towards this generous person and the friendly United States of America. [passage omitted]

UK Official on Arms Purchases, Iraq Blockade

LD1211145792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Nov (KUNA)—A British military man has described Kuwait's preference for the American Abrams tank over its British counterpart Challenger as a studied decision dictated by Kuwait's defense requirements. General [Sir] Peter de la Billiere, the commander of the British forces in Operation Desert Storm, who is currently visiting Kuwait, said at a news conference held today said it is known that Kuwait has followed a policy of diversifying its sources of arms purchase, and for this reason it is buying arms from Britain other than the tank. [passage omitted].

General de la Billiere said that the Gulf Cooperation Council member states should bring in highly advanced military technology to rely on given their small populations, and that such technology is the best military guarantee for the small states. [passage omitted].

Concerning his view about the future of Iraq, General de la Billiere said that most of the Iraqi forces were destroyed or annihilated during the war, that they are no longer capable of engaging in any act of aggression, and that the future of Iraq depends on the ability of the people to topple the current regime. With regard to the idea of dealing a fresh blow to Iraq, he said that the UN resolutions provide for an economic boycott, and for the ruling regime in Baghdad to carry out the Security Council resolutions, particularly those pertaining to the weapons of destruction inspection teams. He pointed out that a decision for a military intervention in Iraq is the prerogative of the United Nations.

The British general described Kuwaiti-British relations as deep, noting that they had historical roots, particularly in the field of military cooperation. He added that troops from the two countries were currently involved in joint military exercises.

In his assessment of the military performance of the allied forces during the war for the liberation of Kuwait, General de la Billiere said that the goal of the alliance at the time was to liberate Kuwait and to defeat the Iraqi troops in the field of operations and not to topple Saddam Husayn's regime.

As regards the security zones in the south and north of Iraq, he indicated that the aim behind the creation of these zones was to provide protection for the population of these zones against the tyranny of the troops of the Iraqi regime and not to prop up one front and not another [as received]. The general also called on the Arab states to support the economic blockade and the UN inspection teams in Iraq in the interest of the states of the region and to guarantee their stability.

The general saluted the Kuwaiti officials for the welcome they gave to the families of the British casualties of the war of liberation and he described the audience accorded to them by Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, as demonstrating an interest from the highest level, adding that it would strengthen relations between the two countries. He added that between 35 and 40 Britons were killed either by mistake or in accidents during Desert Storm, but, he further said, there is no difference between them and those who were killed in battle because they all sacrificed their lives.

It is worth mentioning that a group of families of British soldiers killed during the war for the liberation of Kuwait are currently visiting Kuwait where they have met a number of Kuwaiti officials.

Chief of Staff on Arms Buys, Qatari Withdrawal

PM1311103692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Nov 92 p 4

[Interview with Kuwaiti Chief of Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah by Siham Harb in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Harb] We heard a great deal about the U.S. Abrams tanks deal, that they are being preferred to the British Challenger tanks. What is the truth about this deal?

[Al-Sabah] There is no disagreement...the deal was awarded to the U.S. tanks on the basis of field tests. My role is to list the Defense Ministry's requirements and test the weapons known for their field capability. We test them, and if they pass the tests and are found to have high combat capability and to be suitable for us, I recommend them to the competent quarters, which are left to made the political decision and approve them first. As for what is said about this or that deal, I have nothing to do with it. I do not persuade people to purchase this or that type of weapons, first because I am the user, and second because I am not compelled or present here to appease a certain group of people. I have nothing to do with these kind of things. I choose when I am completely convinced and then I refer the matter to the defense minister. They sign the deals.

[Harb] Do you believe that the Qatari forces' withdrawal from the "Peninsula Shield" will have an impact on Gulf military cooperation?

[Al-Sabah] I believe it is a storm in a teacup. And in my view, that withdrawal is merely a replacement within the Qatari forces operating inside the "Peninsula Shield." And in truth, I am very optimistic that matters will return to normal, because the lessons we have experienced do not allow disunion, and no matter if we differ over minor things, we are still bound by our hearts.

[Harb] What stage has been reached in the border demarcation issue? How long will it take? How much will it cost?

[Al-Sabah] The border demarcation issue is the responsibility of the Security Council. And according to political statements here, there is correspondence between the Kuwaiti position and what the Security Council is doing vis-a-vis demarcation. The implementation phase started some time ago, and I believe it will continue until the end of year. There is also the demarcation of territorial waters. The committees working in this connection belong to the Security Council, which is the decision-maker in this regard.

As for the costs, they have nothing to do with us. It is the political leaders' job.

[Harb] What stage has been reached with regard to rearming the Army?

[Al-Sabah] We have made long strides in connection with reequipping the Army militarily and technically in a record period of time, in view of the situation when we began. Sixty percent of the process has been completed. And we are continuing to develop our Armed Forces and acquire the latest weapons from several sources which we find suitable for us, that is in accordance with our defense plans, which are based on the the theory that troops should use the smallest number of modern and advanced weapons. [passage omitted]

Readiness To Sign Pacts With PRC, Russia Voiced

LD1211203292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, in a press statement published here today, expressed Kuwait's readiness to sign two security agreements with the rest of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council—China and Russia. In his statement to the daily AL-SIYASAH, the defense minister confirmed that talks were currently taking place with the Russian Federation and China to realize the goal behind signing these agreements. He pointed out that the current discussions were related to the details of these security agreements. [passage omitted]

The defense minister also pointed out that many amendments would be introduced to the Conscription Law and said that the new law was in its final stages of preparation so that it could be referred to the Council of Ministers and then to the National Assembly. He added that the Military College would be ready to receive the cadet officers at the beginning of the coming year.

Foreign Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Relations

NC1111200392 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with a number of Western envoys accredited in Kuwait.

After the meeting, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told journalists that the talks dealt with topics pertaining to the upcoming summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He added that the talks also touched on the transient border dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar and ongoing efforts to end the dispute.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that he also met with U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Edward Gnehm and discussed Kuwaiti-U.S. relations under the new U.S. Administration. The talks also dealt with developments in the Gulf region, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added.

Cultural Cooperation Discussed With Iranian Envoy

LD1011155992 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 10 IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Husayn Sadeqi met with Kuwait's Minister of

Information Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sa'ud al-Sabah in Kuwait City Monday afternoon and discussed bilateral cultural cooperation.

Both officials stressed the need for establishment of cooperation between the two countries' mass media and the Kuwaiti minister emphasized implementation of a cultural protocol signed between Iran and Kuwait.

Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah expressed deep appreciation of his country for Iran's stance during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and said that it was one of the reasons for defeat of Baghdad.

The Kuwaiti minister stressed the need for cooperation among the Persian Gulf states saying that it was crucial for maintaining peace and security in the region.

Central Bank Halts Financial Dealings With FRY

LD1011153692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1303 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Nov—The Central Bank of Kuwait announced today that it will no longer issue any letters of guarantee or open credit lines or carry any transfers of funds in favor of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or any of its citizens.

This decision is in affirmation of the State of Kuwait's adherance to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution No. 757 for the year 1992 concerning the imposition of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—Serbia and Montenegro.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, President Bush Hold Phone Conversation

LD1211233592 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 12, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd contacted U.S. President George Bush over the telephone on Wednesday. King Fahd expressed his sincere regards to President Bush for his bold stances in liberating Kuwait in addition to his fruitful efforts to realize the just right and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. King Fahd also thanked President Bush for continuous efforts to meet the Kingdom's requirement from the advanced weapons and latest jet fighters.

On his part, President Bush thanked King Fahd for his sincere cooperation and help extended for maintaining security and stability and serve the just causes of all nations. President Bush also hailed the distinguished role played by the Kingdom under the leadership of King Fahd in the political and humanitarian fields.

President Bush wished King Fahd every success and the Saudi Government and people greater progress and prosperity.

Al-Faysal Receives Azerbaijani Foreign Minister

LD1211220492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, made a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY [SPA] and said:

I was happy to meet Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov and the delegation accompanying him. This meeting gave us the opportunity to examine ways to develop bilateral relations in all political, economic, cultural, information, and scientific fields. This corresponds to the ties of Islamic fraternity existing between our two brotherly peoples and to the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques and his excellency the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who attach great importance to the development of these relations. This meeting also gave us the opportunity to review various regional and international political issues of mutual interest.

HRH Prince Sa'ud added: During this meeting, I sensed the conformity of our views on various issues and topics that were discussed and the wide range that exists for the development of cooperative relations between our two sister countries in various fields.

HRH also said: As a result of this visit, the governments in the two sister countries will examine ways to develop cooperation in various fields in the near future. We have also reached an agreement on strengthening relations of cooperation, consultation, and coordination between the foreign ministries in our two sister countries.

United Arab Emirates

Omani Official Holds Talks After Border Clash

NC1211213592 Paris AFP in English 1958 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 12 (AFP)—A senior Omani security official held talks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Thursday, following reports of a border clash between the two countries, the official UAE news agency WAM said.

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Qahtan Bin-Ya'rub met the ruler of al-Shariqah emirate, Shaykh Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi. WAM said they discussed "brotherly ties between the two countries and issues of common concern."

Bin-Ya'rub's visit followed reports of a border incident in which six people were wounded, including two Omani policemen.

According to the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the clash took place last Sunday at the border town of Diba al-Hisn after workers of an Omani asphalt firm strayed into UAE territory.

The UAE and Oman, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), resolved a border dispute in 1989 after several years of negotiation.

The incident comes amidst a flare-up of border disputes in the Gulf, notably between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, and the UAE and Iran. Except for non-Arab Iran, they are all GCC members along with Kuwait.

There was no official confirmation from either side of the clash at Diba al-Hisn on the al-Shariqah border.

Yemen

President, Vice President Meet To Mend Differences

NC1211100592 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 10

[Text] Following three months of estrangement, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid met in al-Hudaydah on 2 November. Sources from the Yemeni Socialist Party said during the meeting the two discussed their differences. The sources did not disclose what these differences are, however. It is known, however, that behind Al-Bid's reclusiveness and reluctance to leave Aden are his demands that the provisions of the unity agreements signed between the two parts of Yemen on 22 November 1990 be implemented. These provisions include the unification of the armed forces, their withdrawal from towns, and the arrest of the perpetrators of the recent assassinations and bombings that targeted Yemeni Socialist Party officials.

The meeting took place after efforts by the two parties' officials. Yemeni officials face the task of making an immediate decision on setting a date for elections, which the unity agreement stipulates must be held before 22 November. The higher committee on elections wants to postpone the elections; however, it is facing pressure from some parties—above all the Yemeni Reform Party, which includes Islamists and other popular organizations—to hold the elections on time.

Talabani Reportedly Escaped Bomb Attack 'Last Week'

NC1211130592 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Ankara, Nov 12 (AFP)—A bomb attack against Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani was foiled by his bodyguards last week in northern Iraq, in an incident that left one dead and two wounded, a Turkish daily reported Thursday.

GUNDEM [as received], a pro-Kurdish newspaper, said the incident took place Saturday in Irbil, seat of a Kurdish government rejected by the Baghdad authorities and where the head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan lives. Bodyguards tried to stop a "suspect" taxi outside Talabani's house when the passengers of the car opened fire. The bodyguards retaliated killing the driver and wounding the two other occupants of the cab.

Several sticks of dynamite were found in the taxi which was to be exploded as Talabani returned home, the daily said in a report from the northern Iraqi town of al-Shaqlawa.

Fifty Kurds, including Iranians and Shiite Muslim Kurds from the northern Iraqi town of Khakurk, were detained for questioning, GUNDEM said, adding that a search was underway for 10 other suspects.

There was no independent confirmation of the report and a traveller from Irbil told AFP in Ankara he was not aware of the attempted attack. The source, quoting Kurdish leaders, said many attacks take place every day in Irbil and other Kurdish-controlled towns in northern Iraq.

PKK Issues Statement on Casualty Levels

PM1211122792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 4

["In First Statement on Results of North Iraq Fighting, Kurdistan Workers Party Admits Only Hundred Have Been Killed and Confirms it Has Not Surrendered to 'Peshmerga'"—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT headline]

[Excerpts] London, Ankara, Dahuk (Iraq), news agencies—The Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] yesterday issued a statement on the results of the ongoing fighting in north Iraq with the Turkish forces and Iraqi Kurdish "Peshmerga" fighters.

The statement was distributed in Ankara by the National Front for the Liberation of Kurdistan [NFLK], the PKK's political wing. It is based in Germany.

The statement said that over 1,000 Turkish and Iraqi Kurdish 'Peshmerga' fighters were killed and about another 1,000 wounded in the fighting that took place in northern Iraq between Turkish Kurds and the Turkish Army.

The Front added in its statement that less than 100 PKK fighters were killed and about another 100 wounded in the fighting. [passage omitted]

The NFLK's statement also confirmed that 488 members of the Turkish security forces—among them five policemen and 150 "village defenders," a Kurdish militia close to the government—were killed in "northern Kurdistan" (southeast Anatolia) during the period between 1 to 25 October.

The statement indicated that 152 Kurdish fighters were killed in the fighting or in subversive operations.

The statement said that these results are "partial" and confirmed that the PKK "has not been defeated and has not surrendered to the Iraqi Peshmerga." [passage omitted]

Basrah Province Chief Security Officer Killed

LD1211202892 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—Chief security official of Basrah Province, Latif Kazem, along with Brigadier General Abdulmajid al-Jenabi the commander of Infantry Brigade 132, were killed by Iraqi revolutionary forces, according to the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI).

SAIRI said that Iraqi Muslims have stepped up their operations over the past few days, in order to teach the Ba'thist regime a lesson for its mounting crimes.

Iraqi popular forces have also killed security officer of the Third Corps First Liutanant Yaqub Khalaf during an operation against a military convoy on the Risan-Rumailah road in the southern part of Iraq.

Several army vehicles were damaged and semi-heavy weapons seized by the popular forces.

In another operation, Yusuf Makr one of the highly decorated Ba'th party members was killed by the local Muslims.

Opposition Says Regime Preparing Attack on South

NC1211160992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The rejected tyrant regime is continuing its military preparations and troop mobilization to launch an offensive against marshland residents in the triangle between al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah Governorates. Opposition sources affirmed that tyrant Saddam's regime, which has cut off most water sources to the marshlands, currently is reinforcing and deploying long-range, large-caliber artillery and tanks and other repressive tools to launch an annihilation campaign against the residents of this area.

The sources said that the rejected regime's forces are preparing for this savage new military campaign against civilians in the marshlands with barrages of artillery fire targeting many area villages. The sources also said a campaign of raids and arrests has been launched by the repressive regime's services against civilians in the south to coincide with the military preparations of the tyrant's forces in the area.

River Diversion Project Said Completed in South

NC1111210592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] According to Iraqi opposition sources, engineering corps units of the dictatorial regime in the southern marshlands have finished building earth barriers and dams to divert the course of all the rivers that used to irrigate the marshlands and agricultural land.

In a report from the south, the opposition sources said that several rivers have dried up and can be crossed on foot. They said that the engineering operations coincided with the rice season and have completely destroyed the harvest. The sources said that the regime has tightened control on (Umm al-Hawsh) River, the last water source for the marshlands.

The report added that the regime's military engineering corps are currently planting thousands of mines on roads in the marshlands and are planning wide-scale security measures in the various areas of al-'Amarah and the nearby southern governorates.

The dictatorial regime has intensified its bombardment of villages and housing units in the marshlands of al-'Amarah Governorate. The opposition sources affirmed that the regime deployed heavy artillery and armored cars in various areas in the south.

The opposition sources said that the outcast regime has ordered its units to storm vast areas in al-Maymunah and al-'Adl. The regime's forces confiscated people's money and arrested hundreds of their sons and transported them to detention camps where they were subjected to physical and psychological torture.

Kuwaiti 'Armed Group' Kidnaps Farmers in Safwan

JN1311121892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—An armed group of mercenaries working for the regime imposed on Kuwait have attacked farmers in the Safwan area in the al-Basrah Governorate, 550 km south of Baghdad.

This was reported by the newspaper AL-THAWRAH today. The paper report added that the armed group kidnapped farmers 'Ali Kazim and 'Imad Hamzah while they were working on their farm early last week. They were led to an unknown destination in the Kuwait area inside a GMC vehicle, which was equipped with a PKC [expansion unknown] weapon.

It is to be recalled that the butchers of the regime imposed on Kuwait had previously perpetrated similar attacks, including the kidnapping of children from their farms. The children were forcibly led off their farms and their property was destroyed.

Sudanese Plane Arrives Via Saudi Airspace

JN1211192992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—A Sudanese Airways' cargo plane carrying 35 tonnes of fresh meat arrived at al-Habbaniyah Airport today. In a statement to INA, the air operations officer at Saddam International Airport said that the plane arrived across Saudi airspace at 1440. He added that the plane took off and returned to Khartoum at 1725 using the same route.

Russian Opposition Group Continues Visit

Meets With 'Aziz

JN1211153992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received here today the Russian parliamentary delegation led by Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian opposition Parliamentary Unity Bloc, and the accompanying delegation.

The deputy prime minister stressed the need for continuing friendship and cooperation ties between the two countries and developing these ties to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

Sergey Baburin and members of the accompanying delegation valued Iraq and its brave leader in their solid defense of Iraq, which became a symbol of dignity, independence, sovereignty, and principles. They stressed that the aggression against Iraq did not achieve its objectives, adding that the results of the aggression and the continuation of the blockade disappointed the aggressors. They said that the aggressors were disappointed thanks to the Iraqi people's solidarity with their historic leadership in rebuilding what was destroyed during the war and the building of new big projects.

The two sides reviewed the historical ties of friendship and cooperation between the Iraqi and Russian peoples.

The meeting was attended by member of the Foreign Relations Committee at the National Assembly.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1211134392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command

Council and prime minister, today received a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian opposition parliamentary Unity Bloc.

The prime minister said that Iraq was bound to the former Soviet Union by strong ties. He added that Iraq hopes to promote its relations with Russia, noting that it is willing to cooperate with Russia in all spheres in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The prime minister went on to say that Iraq has managed to rebuild 85.5 percent of the projects, infrastructure, and the industrial and development facilities destroyed by the aggressors.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi affirmed that Iraq is currently suffering from the iniquitous embargo, particularly in the area of medicines, medical requirements, and food supplies—something which runs counter to the most basic rules of international law.

For his part, Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian parliamentary delegation, expressed pleasure over his visit to Iraq. He said the visit was a step aimed at reviving the treaty of friendship previously concluded between Iraq and the Soviet Union. He also denounced the unfair resolution banning Iraqi flights south of the 32d parallel, describing it as a humiliation to international relations in general, and a far greater humiliation to the Russian people in particular, because this resolution reflects a significant breach of these relations.

The head of the Russian parliamentary delegation condemned the economic embargo imposed on the Iraqi people and promised to work to lift it, particularly at the Russian Parliament, which will discuss the Iraq issue during its next sessions.

Leader Comments on Ties

JN1311122992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian opposition parliamentary Unity Bloc, has stated that the Russian Government's stand in support of the U.S. anti-Iraq policy, as manifested during the aggression against Iraq, has harmed the national interests of the Russian people.

In a press statement published here today, the Russian official added that Iraqis are a friendly people who aspire to see world security and peace realized. Our Russian people and the Iraqi people have been bound together by a treaty of friendship since 1972. This treaty, he noted, is still valid.

The Russian official added: Our government's position vis-a-vis the embargo and aggression is wrong and deemed unacceptable by all nationalist forces in Russia. He indicated that the parliamentary Unity Bloc issued a statement in this regard, denouncing the government position and demanding a correction of the government's policy toward Iraq to honor the agreement binding our two countries.

The head of the opposition parliamentary Unity Bloc asserted that the Russian delegation's visit to Iraq is aimed at holding talks with Iraqi officials so that we may extend aid and assistance to the friendly Iraqi people.

Concerning his assessment of the political and economic situation in Russia, Sergey Baburin said that events in the former Soviet Union will erase neither the history of Soviet peoples, nor their national interests. These peoples, he added, cannot dispense with one another.

Regarding U.S. policy, the Russian official said that the policies imposed on states through coercion are bound to be hostile and deemed unacceptable by all peoples. As for the U.S. policy and the new world order it is leading, they are rejected and deemed unacceptable. This stand reflects our principled position, he noted.

The Russian official affirmed that international relations must cherish the principle of equality among nations. Besides, these relations, he added, must be based on balanced interests, and also on noninterference in the domestic affairs of other nations.

Concluding his statement, the head of the parliamentary Unity Bloc condemned the no-fly zone resolution banning flights in southern Iraq enforced by the United States, Britain, and France, affirming that this resolution reflects illegal interference in the domestic affairs of Iraq—something deemed unacceptable by international law.

Sudanese Deputy Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

JN0611185192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy prime minister and interior minister of Sudan, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

The Sudanese dignitary told INA he was carrying a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, to his brother President Saddam Husayn. His visit, he added, is meant to further strengthen the developing ties between the two brotherly states and to advance Arab cooperation under the new world order.

The Sudanese delegation also includes Irrigation Minister Ya'qub Musa Abu-Shura and Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state for presidential affairs.

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN0711172492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, received a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation in Sudan, dealing with fraternal bilateral relations, ways of developing them, and the current Arab situation.

The message was conveyed to his excellency by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy prime minister and interior minister of Sudan, when the president received him today. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih conveyed the greetings of Sudan—president, leadership, government, and people—to the president and leadership of Iraq and its people, and their pride in the glorious struggle of our people and their steadfastness in the face of tyranny.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Confers With Ramadan

JN0711194892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Sudan were held today. The Iraqi side was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, and the Sudanese side was led by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese deputy Prime minister and interior minister.

Taha Yasin Ramadan welcomed the fraternal Sudanese delegation's visit, and said this visit has moral significance and pan-Arab objectives which emphasize that sincere sons of the Arab nation defy all forms of siege, plotting, aggression, and treason.

The vice president stressed that the visit will contribute to fostering the confidence of Arab masses, and emphasized that the Arab nation will remain stronger than all methods of aggression, and that its present and future will remain prosperous, thanks to the efforts and sincerity of its courageous leaders.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the march of reconstruction and the new construction in Iraq, which are being carried out by its mujahidin sons and under the leadership of their symbol, President Saddam Husayn. He stressed that Iraq's experiment of steadfastness, victory, and construction is a model for all Arabs, and said the future of Iraq will be brighter, greater, and stronger.

Maj. Gen. Salih expressed pleasure for the honor accorded to him by meeting leader President Saddam Husayn. He stressed that the reception of president Saddam Husayn by the Iraqi masses in all the governorates his excellency visits is a public referendum on the Iraqi people's love and support for his courageous leadership. This reception is considered a new pledge of allegiance and adherence to his excellency.

The Sudanese official said that by their patience and steadfastness, coupled with their sacrifices and constructive efforts, the Iraqi people proved that they are a strong and faithful Arab vanguard, adhering to the Arab nation's aims. Thus the Iraqis have realized a new victory for their nation and a defeat for the nation's enemies.

Salih noted that the pressures and threats that Sudan faces can never compel it to deviate from its principled, pan-Arab stands but will augment its adherence to them so that our Arab nation will remain a strong, progressive nation, free from weakness, trusteeship, and subservience.

During the official talks, fraternal bilateral relations were reviewed. Ramadan and Salih expressed their satisfaction with the advanced level of relations between the two sisterly countries despite the pressures and the circumstances of the embargo. They affirmed that the current phase should witness serious and practical progress in this field by finding new areas of cooperation and establishing joint strategic projects in the fields of industry, irrigation, agriculture, and services.

It was decided that the Iraq-Sudanese joint committee will meet in Baghdad very shortly to promote joint cooperation and create distinctive relations between the two fraternal countries, transcending all the difficult circumstances and penetrating the walls of the siege imposed on Iraq.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks is comprised of Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the head of the president's office, and the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry. The Sudanese delegation is comprised of Ya'qub Musa Abu-Shura, minister irrigation and water resources; Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state for presidential affairs; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Talks With Al-Zubaydi

JN0711211192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister, this evening called on Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Sudan's deputy prime minister and interior minister.

During the meeting, the prime minister lauded Sudan's leadership and people for aligning themselves with Iraq in its resolute stand against the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the conspiratorial schemes targeting Iraq and the Arab nation. Iraq, he said, wants to further

cooperatation and brotherly relations between the two states for the good of the Arab nation and its noble message.

Maj. Gen. Salih said he was glad to be visiting Baghdad at this juncture to further deepen the brotherly ties between Iraq and Sudan. Noting that the two countries have developed a special relationship, Salih attributed this to a common perspective on imperialist machinations which seek to compromise their dignity and sovereignty. He emphasized that there is no longer anything to be said for retaining the sanctions against Iraq. Sudan will do all in its power toward getting the sanctions lifted, he stressed.

Present at the meeting were members of the Sudanese delegation and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Ibrahim

JN0711211992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], today received Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese deputy prime minister and interior minister. During the meeting, they reviewed the growing brotherly relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them in the future. 'Izzat Ibrahim welcomed the visit to Baghdad by the guest delegation at this particular stage. He said that the visit constitutes a step toward strengthening brotherly ties between Iraq and Sudan and an important step toward a future joint Arab action.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: Your noble support for Iraq proves Sudan's free will, the good intentions of the Sudanese leadership and people, and the method and doctrine worked out by the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation to achieve the aspirations of the fraternal Sudanese people. He also praised fraternal Sudan's solidarity with Iraq, which is confronting the fiercest imperialist-Zionist onslaught throughout history—an onslaught which is directed at Arabism and Iraq. He said: Fraternal Sudan's historic and principled position was not linked with any given circumstance, stage, or temporary interest, but was the outcome of a sound vision, an accurate analysis of events, and an understanding of the enemies' wicked intentions.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim said: We in Iraq have lately lived the nation's cause with our senses and feelings, and we have gained a good knowledge of the position of every part of the Arab nation toward Iraq's cause, which is also the cause of the Arab nation and humanity.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese deputy prime minister and interior minister, stressed the Sudanese people's support for their brothers in Iraq in their steadfastness, cohesion, rallying around their brave leadership, and their confrontation of the Western-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq despite its large-scale nature. He said: Our support for Iraq has strengthened our confidence in ourselves and in our capability to confront foreign pressures and has also made us more determined to remain steadfast and offer more sacrifices.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih [illegible]ded: Iraq's position during the Mother of Battles [illegible] something in which all the Arabs and Muslims take pride as they see Iraq embody the concerns and aspirations of the Arab and Islamic nations and honestly defend its great cultural heritage, values, and principles with its own experience despite the continued economic blockade.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih expressed Sudan's desire to benefit from Iraq's creative expertise through participation in implementing development projects in Sudan. The meeting was attended by Sudanese Irrigation Minister Ya'qub Abu-Shura, Sudanese State Minister for Presidential Affairs Ghazi Salah-al-Din, and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Energy Conference Concludes, Issues Proposals

JN1311141292 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 13, INA—The 1st Iraqi energy conference has called for taking steps to expand crude production and refining capacity in conformity with the country's huge oil reserves and meeting the developments of the oil market.

In a statement released at the conclusion of its meetings yesterday, the conference stressed that there was a substantial increasing demand of energy in Iraq where local consumption is expected to reach an equivalent of one million b/d [barrels per day] in the year 2000.

The participants called in the statement for improving the quality of oil products in order to furthering the export of such derivatives to the international market.

They also urged for carrying out deep economic studies to find out the optimum means of exploiting energy resources and using alternatives in the oil policy.

The statement recommended further utilization of waters of the country's two rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, and expanding the building of dams used for irrigation and power generation.

It proposed using thermal power insulation buildings and houses to reduce energy consumption and called upon private companies to expand manufacturing of such materials. It suggested development of scientific expertise and technical cadres in the fields of new and renewable energy and encouraged the utilization of solar energy resources in various projects.

Researches and studies introduced to the conference indicated that oil and gas reserves in Iraq far exceed the already announced figures.

The conference discussed over three days about 70 papers and researches that dealt with four aspects, namely, energy resources, economic statistics, energy systems and technological inventions.

The conferees decided that the energy conference convene triennially. The 2nd conference is to be held in November 1995.

Activity Continues in Lebanese 'Security Zone'

IDF 'Completes' Deployment

TA1211194692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone in Lebanon. Air Force fighter jets and helicopters are flying over the area to locate gatherings of Hizballah men. The IDF completed its deployment in the security zone today. In settlements along the northern border tension is on the rise, and the inhabitants will have to spend tonight as well in bomb shelters and protected rooms. Our army affairs correspondent Beni Liss reports:

[Begin recording] The IDF convoys are making their way in the security zone among Lebanese villages. In fact, the entire military force the IDF has sent to the north has already taken positions inside the security zone. The large number of soldiers and pieces of equipment in the security zone will entail, if they stay there for long, convoys of food, water, and gasoline. Such extensive movement along the narrow roads of the security zone could tempt Hizballah into activity, so protection of the supply convoys was beefed up.

Lebanese sources have reported extensive flights of IDF helicopters and restricted artillery fire at various regions north of the security zone. It should be noted, however, that these are only local, pinpointed operations. [passage omitted]

Facing Lebanese villages, the IDF today placed the largest military force that has been seen here since the war in Lebanon. [end recording]

[Passage omitted] Radio Lebanon reported this evening that Hizballah has fired 10 Katyusha rockets at the security zone. This report has not been verified by Israeli sources. [passage omitted]

Soldier Killed in Zone

TA1311054792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] An Israeli soldier has been killed in a clash with the Hizballah in southern Lebanon. Two other soldiers were wounded. In the exchange of fire, one of the terrorists was also killed.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier who died is 19-year-old Sergeant 'Ali Faris Qis from the Druze village of Bayt Jann.

On the Israeli side of the northern border, the night passed quietly. From the border area, military reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The Israeli soldiers were ambushed late yesterday afternoon in the western sector of the security zone, near the village of Bayt Lif. The IDF spokesman said the soldiers were undertaking routine activities in the security zone when they came under fire. During the shooting, Sergeant Qis was killed and two other soldiers wounded, while one of the gunmen who attacked them was also killed and the second wounded and captured.

The wounded were evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa, while artillery and helicopter gun ships provided covering fire against Hizballah positions in the area of Kafra and Yatar villages just outside the security zone.

Doctors at the Rambam Hospital said one of the Israeli soldiers had been lightly injured in the leg, while the other received moderate to serious wounds in the chest and back.

The clash took place in the same area where a UN soldier was killed and three others wounded in an attack by Hizballah earlier in the day. All the various clashes involving Hizballah, the UN, and Israeli soldiers were confined to the same general area, and there have been no reports of any other incidents elsewhere in south Lebanon.

The Israeli side of the border has been quiet now for two nights running, but tension remains high, especially in wake of yesterday's clashes inside the security zone. The assessment here is that the situation remains volatile, and the massive IDF deployment will remain in the north for the time being.

Rabin Expects Calm

TA1311120692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that Hizballah is about to desist from its attempts to fire on northern Israel and that calm will prevail from now on. The prime minister views Hizballah as the most dangerous organization Lebanon has ever witnessed. This morning he met with the mayors of towns on the northern border. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv was also there:

[Begin recording] [Aviv] Until the beginning of this year, the Galilee enjoyed calm thanks to the relentless fighting and various activities initiated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] against terrorist targets outside and inside the security zone. The conditions in southern Lebanon have changed over recent years, with Hizballah replacing the Palestinian terror.

[Rabin] I see it as the most dangerous terrorist organization in Lebanon since the friction between Lebanese elements and Israel began.

Up to this moment, none of the terrorist organizations, including Hizballah, has ever launched Katyushas at Israeli settlements in the north as a goal in itself. They have always done so in retaliation against our activities against nearby and distant Hizballah bases, including Hizballah targets situated inside Lebanese settlements north of the security zone.

[Aviv] Israel will not tolerate the Hizballah terror, and it will not allow Hizballah to organize launching sites for sorties against targets in the security zone.

[Rabin] We cannot allow Hizballah to organize activities against the security zone—their main target—undisturbed.

Right now, I anticipate quiet in our northern settlements. I do not expect things to change, however, and we will have to continue deploying IDF and SLA troops day and night, 365 days a year, against Hizballah activities or targets in the security zone.

[Yo'av] The prime minister believes that the present lull in the firing of Katyushas at the Galilee was not achieved through diplomatic efforts. He says that the restraint shown by the IDF does not indicate what the terrorists might view as weakness.

As for Syria, the prime minister says it is pursuing peace negotiations on the one hand while encouraging terrorist organizations on the other.

Referring to the question of the IDF POW's and MIA's, Yitzhaq Rabin says that Israel is pursuing efforts to secure their return home. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peace Talks To Continue

TA1311063092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says that Israel will not allow the Palestinian opposition groups and the Hizballah to carry out their plan of ending the peace talks by intensifying their terror actions. The prime minister made this clear in an interview with reporter Le'a Zinder:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We will continue the peace negotiations with the Syrians, the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the Lebanese as long as we see slight hope of reaching an agreement with them. We will not serve the purpose of the Palestinian rejectionist organizations—the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah—that part of their purpose in the acceleration of the terror is to bring about a halt, to suspend the peace negotiations.

[Zinder] Whom do you hold responsible for the Hizballah actions?

[Rabin] Well, first and foremost, the Hizballah. Second, Iran as the country that inspires them, finances them, and arms them.

[Zinder] Syria?

[Rabin] Syria is not the boss of Hizballah, but Syria is capable of preventing them to do what they do, and I don't believe that Syria is interested to do it, unless it serves against the interests of Syria.

[Zinder] One more question, Mr. Prime Minister: We are told that the Hizballah leaders have gone underground in Lebanon, in fear of an Israeli attack. Isn't this a kind of a cat-and-mouse game? Isn't there a danger that the Hizballah leaders will wait till the Israeli troops have withdrawn, and then they will come out again, and the cycle will continue? Are you planning to put a stop to this cycle?

[Rabin] Well, we are trying. It depends on the development. We have to find a solution to whatever happens. We try to adjust the solutions, the various solutions.

[Zinder] But you still have not exhausted all of the diplomatic efforts to find a solution.

[Rabin] Ah, diplomatic...[changes thought] We are...[changes thought] I will not elaborate about the means by which we are trying to achieve our goal. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Hizballah

TA1111105492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gil Litman "a short time ago," place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you not have a slight feeling of deja vu in relation with the situation 10 years ago, on the eve of the Lebanon war?

[Peres] No, I think the situation then was totally different. The main problem at that time was the Palestinian and PLO involvement. Today, on the other hand, we are dealing with Hizballah which is a smaller group with different characteristics, and which is more interspersed with the local population. Our actions should be adapted to the new circumstances.

[Litman] Is there no fear that the peace process might be affected, particularly the talks with the Syrians?

[Peres] No, I do not think so. I think that neither the Arabs nor us will hand responsibility for the peace talks over to Hizballah; that is nonsense. Proper action should be taken against Hizballah, while the peace process must be conducted between the sides interested in peace—and that we will do.

[Litman] Do you think the Syrians, who control the northern and central sectors of Lebanon, can be blamed for being at least partially responsible for Hizballah's activities?

[Peres] Hizballah gets its instructions from Iran, but the Syrians definitely have effective means to influence, and perhaps even prevent, Hizballah's rampage. I think the Syrians must be expected and urged to do that.

[Litman] Sir, could you tell us what are the options at the moment concerning the situation in Lebanon? Which one of them do you think is the most likely to happen?

[Peres] There is only one option: to take all the measures to halt terror and to defend the State of Israel—and this option we will exercise.

[Litman] Thank you very much.

'Rules of the Game' Viewed

TA1211171592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good evening, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Good evening.

[Friedman] Two and a half days have passed since the last Katyushas were fired at the northern border settlements. For the time being, at least, it appears that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] show of force has achieved its aim. If the state of calm continues, will we refrain from entering Lebanon and striking at Hizballah?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Our goal is not to enter Lebanon. It is to guarantee security along the northern border. Our aim is to return life to normal as quickly as possible. If this is achieved, I would then estimate that Hizballah got the message, understands the rules of the game, and realizes the significance and possible repercussions of firing at our civilian settlements.

[Friedman] Let us recap the rules of the game for whoever may have forgotten. Hizballah is forbidden to shoot at civilian settlements but can, for example, open fire at IDF forces inside the security zone?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Look, that is life. The entire concept of the security zone came about to prevent infiltrations and a situation in which our civilian population would, God forbid, find itself on the front line of fire. That is the price, and that is what we are fighting together with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] to achieve. We are holding this area and maintain a presence there, and I have to say regrettably that we consider it a legitimate line. I only hope that Hizballah also knows that shooting inside the security zone and at IDF troops—or any attacks on us or on the SLA—also has a significance. What happened was that in reaction to a series of actions against our forces and the SLA, the IDF reacted, and Hizballah responded the way it did. I think that the developments of the last few days, and what happened afterwards of course, lead us to the conclusion that Hizballah and the others—or in other words the people and forces around them, the Syrians and the Lebanese Government—realized that Israel is determined that if there is no quiet on our side there will be no peace on their side of the border either.

[Dan] Does the IDF not understand, however, that for certain reasons—the difficult terrain or the conditions the Hizballah terrorists operate under—its hands are tied in some aspects? Is that not really the reason behind the IDF's show of restraint?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I will repeat what I said before. Our aim is to restore calm....

[Dan, interrupting] That is in the long run. The question is what happens in the short run.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] In the short run, I hope Hizballah got our message. After all, our deployment is no secret, and judging from what I hear from various radio stations both in Israel and abroad, I believe that both Hizballah and the Syrians have understood that this time the IDF is determined to strike at Hizballah if it continues to break the rules. I hope that Hizballah understood the message and will meticulously uphold the rules of the game.

[Dan] What realistic assessment could you make regarding how long the prevailing calm in the north will last? I would like to remind you that two weeks ago there was a missile attack on our settlements in precisely the same area.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] When you talk about Lebanon and Hizballah, you are dealing with a state of uncertainty. You are not discussing an orderly country, which can be analyzed through the prism of this or that balance of terror. I am sad to say that we must closely monitor developments with one finger on the trigger while at the same time trying to restore calm and normal life to northern Israel. I would like to take this opportunity to praise the residents of the northern settlements. I must say that their brave stand contributes greatly to the IDF's freedom of action in carrying out any activity it sees fit.

[Friedman] Thank you, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer.

Peace Talks as Weapon Urged

TA1211130292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 92 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Syrian-Style Intifadah"]

[Text] Not only frustrated members of the opposition are urging the government to use the peace talks with Syria and Lebanon as a weapon in Israel's war with Hizballah. This time it was Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur who warned that if Katyusha rockets continue to fall on Qiryat Shemona Israel will be unable to take a business-as-usual approach toward the Washington talks.

At first glance, there would seem to be a certain anomaly in holding peace negotiations with countries from whose territory and under whose auspices rockets fall on Israel's citizens. It could be argued that by the very fact that its delegates continue to shake hands with the patrons of the perpetrators Israel gives legitimacy to the situation on the northern border.

However, this strange situation may be analyzed from a different angle: One of the main arguments of the opponents of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights is

that Syria has nothing to offer in exchange for the disputed territory. Ever since the disengagement agreements were signed there has been de facto peace with Syria and, consequently, Israel has no visible interest to change the situation. Yitzhaq Rabin has stated on several occasions that inhabitants of the Golan are safer than those of Bat Yam. The intifadah induced Israel to enter a dialogue with the Palestinians to change a status quo which was based on a deluxe occupation. The Syrians regularly monitor moods in Israel, and they become nervous each time a government leader talks about the importance of the Golan or vows that the precedent set in the Sinai will not recur, not even in exchange for a full peace treaty with Syria. Hizballah's cannons are blaring proof of the Syrians' ammunition.

Hence, what we are witnessing is a Syrian-style intifadah: Israel declares that the Lebanese will not lie in their beds safely as long as their neighbors in Qiryat Shemona have to spend the night in bomb shelters.

The message insidiously delivered by Syria is that the key to sweet dreams lies in its pocket: Israel holds the Golan, while Syria holds Hizballah's reins; give us the Golan, and you will get back peace with Syria and tranquility on the Lebanese border. The Katyusha rockets are meant to encourage Israel to speak to the Syrians about a withdrawal from the Golan. From their point of view, this is the most effective means to boost Israeli motivation to make concessions in one place to be free to deal with trouble in another place.

Those who hold Damascus responsible for Hizballah's behavior say that Syria does have something to sell Israel, albeit indirectly. Indeed, even if the Syrians do not have absolute control over Hizballah's fanatics, they have proven that they can curb their activities and even disrupt their vital supply routes. The attacks on Qiryat Shemona two weeks ago stopped after the Syrians summoned Lebanese and Shiite leaders to an urgent meeting in Lebanon. Syria went to great lengths to publicize the meeting to show the Israelis who is boss. Earlier this week the Syrians facetiously told Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian that they were not responsible for Hizballah's mischief and in the same breath promised to try to hold them in check.

What those who propose calling off the talks with Syria as punishment for Hizballah's attacks are saying is that we should forego an opportunity to reach an agreement that will put an end to terror from Lebanon, or at least curb it significantly. The response must be exactly the opposite: an acceleration of the peace talks aimed at attaining an arrangement with Syria would remove the military threat coming from Lebanon.

Peace with Syria coupled with Israel's continued control of the Golan is as possible as peace with Egypt coupled with Israel's continued rule of the Sinai would have been. Only a peace agreement with Syria which includes an arrangement with Lebanon can turn Israel's presence in the south and the death of its finest men in roadside bomb explosions obsolete.

As long as Israel suffices with public relations ploys—such as presenting the word "withdrawal" in the latest paper as an extraordinary gesture toward the Syrians—it cannot expect them to play the role of Lebanon's policeman.

The word withdrawal appears in UN Resolution 242—a cornerstone of the invitation to the Madrid conference—but Rabin has already hinted that he is talking about a withdrawal of armed forces, not of civilians. This is yet another transparent trick, seeing that when the UN Security Council passed the resolution in June 1967 Israel was talking about a return to the international border in exchange for peace with Syria. It was only in October 1968, in the wake of the Khartoum conference, that Yisra'el Galili persuaded Rabin and Golda Meir to establish facts in the field.

For its part, Israel has been reiterating at the peace talks in Washington that it has no territorial claims on Lebanon and that all it wants is to ensure the safety of its citizens. No sane Israeli official will tell you that there is any worth to an arrangement with Lebanon that does not have the blessing of Damascus. The long history of the conflict with the terrorist organizations in Lebanon shows that this problem cannot be solved by the Air Force planes or by a "military operation," as Mordekhay Gur hinted.

Instead of voicing empty threats, as the deputy defense minister has been doing, it would be better if we were to openly admit that we are being called upon to choose between preserving the Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights and the well-being of the inhabitants of Qiryat Shemona.

IDF Said Turning 'Blind Eye' to Syrian Violations

TA1111104792 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Nov p 7

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[Excerpt] Senior sources in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] northern command yesterday confirmed findings by UN inspectors that Syria had violated the disengagement agreements. The sources, however, pointed out that Israel preferred to turn a blind eye to the Syrian violations reported by the inspectors, as well as additional violations such as the stationing of Syrian commando forces in the town of al-Qunaytirah, which is situated near the border with Israel, opposite kibbutz 'En-Zivan. The sources described them as "long-standing violations." Official military sources yesterday refused to comment on the issue.

Brigadier General Spiegel, commander of the IDF's Liaison Units with Foreign Forces, sent a wire to senior

officers at the General Staff and the Northern Command, in which he pointed out, among other things, that similar UN reports of violations of the disengagement agreements have been issued for the past several years. [passage omitted]

PLO Meetings Could Be Legalized 'Very Soon'

TA1111182692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the inner security cabinet this morning that he must first discuss with the Clinton administration the implications of amending the antiterror law that would make meetings with the PLO legal. This according to coalition Knesset Member Yosi Sarid of Meretz. The Prime Minister's Office says it does not disclose information on security cabinet meetings, but it said it would not deny that the prime minister did in fact make the comments.

Justice Minister David Liba'i told the Knesset plenum this afternoon the government does not want to give the impression that Israel is ready to negotiate in the peace talks with the PLO. On that count, the justice minister said, Israel's policy remains the same. But the justice minister also said he believed the timing will be right very soon to legalize meetings with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Likud MK Says Baker Promised PLO Renewed Talks

TA1311115092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Nov 92 p A4

[By Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] David Mena' has claimed that "on 28 August 1991, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker promised to the PLO leaders that if Israel amends the law banning meetings with PLO members, the Americans will renew dialogue with the PLO." According to Mena', this is why Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin opposes amending the law at this stage. Mena' demands that the issue be addressed by the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs.

MK Mena' stressed that, according to reliable information he had obtained, Baker's message to the PLO was delivered through U.S. Ambassador in Egypt Robert Pelletreau, previously the ambassador in Tunis who first started the U.S.-PLO dialogue. According to Mena', before the Knesset elections, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin traveled to Egypt on behalf of Shim'on Peres to deliver a commitment to the PLO. According to the commitment, if Labor wins the elections, it would revoke the law banning meetings with PLO members, and expand the authorities of the legislative council on autonomy in the territories.

Mena' noted that although Beilin had denied the allegations, he is convinced that his information is truthful and reliable. Mena' claimed that Beilin went to Egypt in early September 1992. There he met Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser, and notified him that the amendment of the law banning meetings with the PLO will be delayed and that, as a compensation for this, Israel will agree to incorporate representatives of the Palestinian diaspora in the political negotiations in Washington, and will allow the Palestinian delegation to expand the scope of its authorities to include a discussion of the refugee problem.

Mena' maintained that in earlier meetings between Labor members, headed by Peres and Beilin, and Egyptian officials, headed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Mubarak's adviser al-Baz, it was agreed that Labor would include in its platform a commitment to nullify the law banning meetings with PLO members. Mena' claims that the Labor Bureau meeting that discussed the issue was attended by former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, deputy chairman of the Egyptian ruling party. Khalil briefed senior Egyptian officials on this, and in January 1992 the Egyptian press published that Labor pledges to discuss an independent Palestinian autonomy according to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

MK Mena' maintained that after Labor made its commitment, MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah (Arab Democratic Party) traveled to Egypt, where he met al-Baz and Nabil Sha'th of the PLO leadership. Former MK Muhammad Mi'ari (Progressive List for Peace and Equality) also visited Egypt. During this visit he was pressured, and refused, to run on a joint list with Darawshah to help Labor win the elections.

As will be recalled, Justice Minister David Liba'i said at the Knesset on 11 November that the Knesset debate of the amendment to the law banning the meetings with the PLO is delayed because it is being discussed by the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs. He stressed that "in today's reality, the amendment might have a political significance."

At the beginning of last week, Beilin denied that he had met PLO members in Cairo. Beilin was unavailable for comment last night because he went abroad.

Rabin Comments on Iranian President's Remarks

TA1111074192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin referred last night to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statement last Friday that, as the United States will soon deal with its domestic problems, Iran will settle the score with Israel. Our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari reports:

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] Rabin would not comment on the situation in the northern border and even refused to answer questions on the issue. Addressing the closing session of the

Jerusalem Conference on Business, the prime minister dwelt on the link between Israel's political situation and progress in the peace talks on the one hand, and Israel's economic situation on the other. He said that, although the chances of a big war have decreased in light of the recent international developments, daily security problems persist. Rabin also referred to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent remarks.

[Rabin] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a sermon last Friday in which he said: As America proceeds to deal with its domestic problems, Iran will settle the score with Israel. This came from the Iranian president, whom people hoped would be relatively moderate.

[Ya'ari] The prime minister also spoke about the peace process, saying he believes that within one year the negotiating sides will attain a real achievement. [end recording]

Violence, Injuries Reported in Terriories

Soldier Wounded in Gaza

TA1111072092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Excerpt] An Israeli soldier was severely wounded last night in the town of 'Abasan, near Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. He was hit when his patrol came under fire. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers returned the fire. Reinforcements were brought in and they searched the area. The wounded soldier was taken to the Beersheba Soroka Hospital.

Two cars were set on fire overnight in the Ramot neighborhood in Jerusalem. Both cars were badly damaged.

Security forces have sealed the home of terrorist suspect Muhammad Sulayman Turkman. He is accused of attacking the Biton couple from the settlement of Ganim. The attack took place in Janin. Mordekhay Biton was fatally injured and later died. His wife used a gun in her possession and shot at Turkman and his accomplice. The security forces are still searching for the accomplice.

In Rafah, masked attackers last night tried to kidnap a man from his house. In the ensuing fight, four members of the man's family were wounded by gunfire. They were treated at al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. Our reporter says it appears the kidnap attempt was due to suspicions the man had cooperated with the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

1 Dead, 21 Injured

TA1111190292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Four residents of the territories were killed over the past 24 hours by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire. Three of them were Gaza Strip residents, including a wanted terrorist who was a member of the Red Eagle squad. The fourth fatality was a 15-year-old youth from the village of Bayt Immar near Hebron.

Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that a group called the Fatah Hawks today assumed responsibility for last night's shooting at Giv'ati Brigade soldiers in the south of the Gaza Strip in which one of the soldiers was seriously injured.

Gaza Strip residents reported that in riots today in Khan Yunus and the refugee camps in central Gaza Strip 21 residents were injured by IDF soldiers' fire. A commercial strike was staged today in southern Gaza Strip and the refugee camps.

[A related report by Moti Amir on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 11 November adds: "The IDF today closed the area of Khan Yunus and Rafah and prevented the media from covering the events. A representative of the IDF spokesman in the Gaza Strip refused to answer reporters' questions regarding the number of people injured or the scope of the riots in the Gaza Strip."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 on 11 November adds: "The Ramallah Military court today handed down a 10-year-prison sentence on a resident of the town who was convicted of an attempt to place bombs on Yafo Street in Jerusalem, at the government compound, and near the settlement of Migdalim near Nabulus. When he tried to place the last bomb, it went off, and the man and his accomplice were injured."]

Buses Attacked

TA1211183092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Khan Yunus today, wounding 19. The incident followed disturbances in which four Border Policemen were lightly injured. A curfew was imposed on Khan Yunus refugee camp and on nearby Bani-Suhaylah.

Israeli busses were attacked today in three separate incidents in Jerusalem and the territories. A young girl was slightly injured when stones were thrown at a bus passing through al-Birah, north of Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, at the site of the old bus station in the eastern sector of the city, a No. 23 bus stopped to let off passengers. As the driver opened the door, an explosive device was thrown into the bus. It went off without hurting anyone, but there was some damage. Soldiers and civilians on the bus fired their weapons in the air. About 30 suspects were detained for questioning.

Near Janin this evening, shots were fired at two busses, one carrying soldiers and another Arab workers. No one was harmed. The windshield of the workers' bus was smashed.

King Issues Amnesty for Prisoners, Detainees

JN1211191592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Letter from Jordan's King Husayn to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on 12 November—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, our prime minister, may God protect you:

We first extend to Your Excellency our sincerest love and deep appreciation. I have always experienced, with great pride and absolute confidence, the feelings of the sons of our one glorious Jordanian family of all their origins and extractions.

They have overwhelmed me with sincere love, true emotions, and deep allegiance. I have also observed the progress of the Jordanian community in recent years, with all its momentum in the great deal it has achieved and in its creativity, to achieve our great ambitions and establish the pillars of a democratic approach, with all the requirements entailed, including liberty, legislation, awareness, and culture.

The distinguished effort of the three authorities which we lead, support, and care for, was part of this sociopolitical awakening. Also, comprehensive national dialogue, endorsing a national charter, engaging in the peace battle, and reactivating the economy constitutes a bright picture of national performance undertaken by the leadership and the people in a democratic climate permeated by openness and tolerance and a deep sense of responsibility.

Thank God, our people have succeeded in overcoming many challenges during this phase and continued to stand together with a shared vision that made the picture of this homeland a model and an example discussed by people at home and abroad with great pride and appreciation.

Praise be to God, this march has so far succeeded and filled our country with confidence, hope, and pride, and created for the nation prospects for freedom, democracy, justice, and human rights.

While seeking to burnish this image and establish the foundations of social, intellectual, and economic progress, we think, out of the fact that we are reassured about, and fully confident in, the people's awareness, whom we consider the first to care for the safety of the democratic march and for safeguarding human rights and the might of the homeland, that whatever threatens the march also threatens the people's future and message in their nation. They can distinguish right from wrong and stop whoever thinks of threatening democracy under its own name or exploiting freedom in order to bury it.

Moreover, we are supervising the performance of the three authorities which are from this people and from us and which are to them and to us. We support them in carrying out their duties and prevent any weakness or disruption which will shake all their bases and pillars if it affects one of them, God forbid.

When I view this march and the spirit of the one family prevailing in our country, when I see all the people denouncing every infringement on our national, social, and political security, and rejecting all fanaticism, extremism, and anarchy, I become convinced that it is time this society take a look at the group which was led astray with the aim of granting it the opportunity of returning to the right path. This is out of our magnanimous religion and the values of our Jordanian experiment which has been characterized over the past years with wisdom, patience, and forgiveness to those who make mistakes and who sincerely wish to return to the ranks of their people to take their positions there, regretting their harmful misconduct which caused injury to society.

I have known the children of this homeland in their various positions and in their generations and have lived with them and for them as a brother, father, and friend. I have been shouldering their cares and endeavoring to increase their happiness. When I see them as one family, which is not shaken by disruption or debilitated by weakness, and whose security and safety are not threatened by anyone, I become reassured and relieved. I then boast in front of the world of this great, generous family.

Therefore, I think that providing the opportunity is possible for this group, which has deviated from the ranks, to return so that none in our society will remain outside the circle of compassion and love which our family resorts to. Therefore, we have decided to issue a general amnesty for those who are jailed and detained, affirming at the same time our full pride, absolute support, and our backing and protection for the fair judicial authority and for the state's organs which are always taking pains to protect the nation amid overwhelming dangers both from outside and inside.

We are certain that the majority of our one family are supporting this move and are joining us to defeat the intrigues of the enemies out of our duties and with more strength than ever before.

While issuing this decision to you, we are certain and confident that you will take the legal measures to carry it out.

We ask God to guide us and grant us success to carry his wishes, he is the most omniscient; the best responder to our prayers.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn, Amman 12 November 1992.

800 To Be Released 13 Nov

JN1311093592 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Nov 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-RA'Y—As soon as the royal decree providing for the release of detainees and prisoners was issued last night, the required measures were taken at various reform and rehabilitation centers in the Kingdom to implement the royal decree.

Various sources said that about 800 detainees and prisoners will be released today, Friday, from various prisons. [passage omitted]

Deputies Shubaylat, Qirrish To Keep Seats

JN1311101592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 92 pp 1, 17

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an emergency session under Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir last night to review the letter that His Majesty King Husayn addressed to the prime minister and his majesty's noble gesture in issuing a general amnesty for prisoners and detainees.

The council approved a provisional bill of the general amnesty law of 1992. The draft law has been submitted to the Royal Court for endorsement by a royal decree.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Yusuf al-Mubayidin said that the provisional bill of the general amnesty law will take effect after the royal endorsement and after being published in a special issue of the official gazette.

The justice minister explained that Deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish will maintain their membership in the House of Representatives. This is because the sentence that was issued against them by the State Security Court has not been approved by the prime minister yet. Therefore, he said, all measures that have been taken against them will be considered null and void.

Mr. Al-Mubayidin said that the amnesty will not cover crimes of premeditated murder, espionage, drug abuse, selling real estate to the enemy, rape, and theft, in addition to customs fines.

The justice minister said that in accordance with this law, all covered crimes will be annulled. Thus, a criminal covered by this amnesty will be considered to have committed no crime, and the offense will be erased from his criminal record.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the general amnesty also covers those convicted in the Muhammad Army Organization case.

Competent quarters at the Justice and Interior Ministries will begin to prepare lists of those covered by the royal amnesty in preparation for their release within the next two days.

Happiness prevailed among citizens and relatives of detainees and prisoners as soon as they learned about the noble gesture of pardoning their sons.

House To Seek Retrial of Deputies' Case

JN1211080292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Nov 92 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament will call on Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to order a retrial of Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami case, in which Islamist deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish and two merchants were found guilty of conspiring to topple the regime, Speaker of the House 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat said Wednesday.

The State Security Court, a military tribunal whose verdicts are not appealable, Tuesday found deputies Shubaylat and Qirrish guilty of belonging to an illegal group plotting to overthrow the regime and of possessions of explosives and automatic weapons, offences punishable by death.

The court, however, did not impose the death penalty. Instead, it commuted the sentence to 20 years with hard labour for both deputies, saying they did not have a criminal record and the explosives found in their possession were not used. Co-defendants merchants Ahmad al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Idkaydik were sentenced to 10 years with hard labour.

The death sentence against Mr. al-Ayyubi and Mr. Idkaydik were reduced to 10 years with hard labour because the two shop-keepers "confessed and regretted their guilt, thus facilitating the work of the court," Court President Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf al-Fa'uri said when he pronounced his verdict Tuesday.

The court's verdict, however, will not become official until it is signed by the prime minister, who can increase the sentence, commute it or order a retrial, according to Article 10 of the State Security Court Law of 1959.

Speaking to reporters hours after the court's verdict was pronounced Tuesday, Dr. 'Arabiyat said the House will seek "appropriate and constitutional measures" in following up the case.

The House is currently in recess and its members are legally barred from having official meetings. Dr. 'Arabiyat said, however, the deputies will hold unofficial meetings to decide the House's course of action. A House committee formed to follow up the case will also continue meetings.

The House is scheduled to reconvene on Dec. 1, when the government is required by law to inform it of the details of the case.

Though he would not comment on the court's verdict, Dr. 'Arabiyat said the "whole case is regrettable and painful."

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the House will also push for a retrial of the case," bloc member Ibrahim Khuraysat said, adding that the verdict cannot be justified by the evidence presented against the two deputies.

"We also hope that the next step will be based on reality and will wipe away the fear that has spread among the people as a consequence of the trial," Mr. Khuraysat said.

Stressing the necessicity of reviewing the structure of the State Security Court and the absence of the right of appeal in the country in the next session of Parliament, the leftist Jordan People Democratic Party Wednesday said the "verdict was disappointing," demanding that the prime minister not approve it.

Amnesty International (AI) also criticised Jordan for the absence of the right of appeal which, it said, is contrary to international human rights treaties ratified by Jordan.

"The absence of the right of appeal before the State Security Court remains a major blemish on an otherwise impressive record of human rights reforms by Jordan," said the London-based organisation in a statement. Without the right of appeal, said AI," no defendant tried by the State Security Court can be said to have had a fair trial."

If the prime minister approves the court's verdict, the two deputies will lose their seats in Parliament provided the House endorses the decision by a two third majority, according to the Constitution.

"Should any senator or deputy become disqualified during his term of office..., his membership shall, by a resolution of two-thirds of the members of the House to which he belongs, be considered inexistent or vacant," reads Article 75-2 of the Constitution.

A sentence to "a term of imprisonment exceeding one year for a non-political offence," disqualifies deputies from serving in the House, according to the Constitution.

If the prime minister orders a retrial and the deputies are cleared, Mr. Shubaylat and Mr. Qirrish, will retain their membership in the House.

The two deputies will also retain their seats if a general pardon, proposed by the government, endorsed by Parliament and approved by the king is issued.

The Muslim Brotherhood have already sent a cable to His Majesty King Husayn asking him to intervene in the case. Observers believe that more appeals will be made to the King to issue a general pardon if the prime minister approves the verdict.

Parties Call For Abandoning Draft Talks Agenda

JN1011131892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 92 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman Safadi]

[Excerpt] Amman—Leftist and Pan-Arabists have joined forces with the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in demanding that Jordan drops the draft agenda reached by Jordanian and Israeli negotiators in Washington on Oct. 27.

In a statement by "forces opposed to surrender," eight political organisations said the draft agenda fulfills the aspiration of the "Zionist entity," and called on other political groups in the country to declare their firm opposition to it.

"We draw the attention of the Jordanian authorities to the danger inherent in this agenda and call on them to abandon it," read a statement faxed to the JORDAN TIMES from The Muslim Brotherhood, factions of the socialist Ba'th Arab Party, the Progressive Nationalist Party, the Popular Jordan Liberation Movement, the Revolutionary Party of the Jordanian People, the Arab Vanguard Movement, the Socialist Progressive Party and an unidentified "large number of Parliamentarians and political personalities."

"The allianace of forces opposed to the surrender process" reject the agenda because it works against the aspirations of the Arab and Muslim people to liberate their lands and restore sovereignty over their religious shrines, the statement said.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Saturday condemned the controversial draft agenda and demanded that Jordanian negotiators be held accountable for exceeding their mandate." The Brotherhood deputies said the negotiators deviated from the government's declared principles on Arab-Israeli peace.

Claiming the agenda "bodies ill for our national unity and inter-Arab relations," the Brotherhood, which opposes the peace process on ideological grounds, lashed out at the agenda for failing to explicity demand an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. It also said the agenda allows for dealing with the refugees problem as an issue of displaced people outside United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The draft agenda, which was published in the JORDAN TIMES on Oct. 29, says that Jordan and Israel will pursue comprehensive and just peace on the basis of security council resolutions 242 and 338. It says the question of refugees will be dealt with under "international law." [passage omitted]

New Proposal to London Club on Rescheduling Debts

JN1011092292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Amman—Jordan has made a new proposal to the London Club of creditor banks to renew negotiations on rescheduling and reducing the Kingdom's commercial debts, informed sources said Monday.

"Finance Minister Basil Jardanah has forwarded the new proposal but it is too early to discuss the details," said a well-informed source. "The proposal, which aims at unstalling the negotiations, has been made as a sign of Jordan's goodwill and quest to resolve the problem," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

The Jordanian move to reengage the commercial banks in negotiations comes despite the relatively comfortable position the Kingdom sees itself in since its stand is supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), banking and diplomatic sources say.

No details of the new proposal was immediately available, but the source indicated that "it represents the position that Jordan adopted in the last meeting with the steering committee (of the London Club) in late September."

In the proposal tabled by Jordan and rejected by the committee in September, the Kingdom sought debt rescheduling and reduction terms along the same lines that the London Club offered to Argentina a few years ago.

Subsequent to the rejection of the proposal, Jordanian officials as well as diplomatic sources dismissed as exaggerated suggestions that the negotiations had collapsed.

"It was an inconclusive session, but it cannot be described as a collapse," said a well-informed Western source. "There is every desire on both sides to reach a fair agreement and efforts are continuing."

Jordan owes the banks grouped under the London Club around $1.2 billion, including $120 million in outstanding interest. It is seeking settlement and rescheduling terms similar to those offered to Argentina, which, at one point in time, was one of the most indebted countries. The steering committee argues that Amman wants more than what was offered to Buenos Aires.

The main sticking point in the Jordan-London club negotiations, said Western and Jordanian sources, was the steering committee's refusal to commit itself to limiting conversion of medium-term debt repayments and interest to long-term debts.

The Kingdom, which is seeking a 50 per cent limit on such conversions, has suggested that part of the other 50 per cent could be bought back by the Kingdom at a discounted rate and part could be converted into investments into Jordan and fixed-time holdings in Jordanian dinars.

"Some of the banks, prominent among them Gulf banks, are insisting that if rescheduling is to be done then it has to be done for the entire amount, including outstanding interest which will be converted as principal," said one of the sources, speaking before the new Jordanian proposal was made.

On the other hand, some of the banks are prone to accepting the Jordanian terms, but none of the major banks, British as well as French, are willing to settle for anything less than full payment on rescheduled terms, said the Western source.

"They might be willing for a discounted sell-back of the debts but their bottom line is much higher than the 40 per cent or so sought by Jordan," added the source.

Some experts argue that in view of the differences of approach among themselves, the creditor banks may not be in a position to continue to project a united negotiating position with Jordan, thus leaving the door open for the Kingdom to reach separate deals with at least some of its creditors.

Such argument is countered by Western analysts. "Over the years, London Club members have stuck together even when the stakes were much higher," said one analyst. "Why should they undermine the institutional unity of the group for a relatively small amount of $1 billion or $1.2 billion?"

In theory, Jordan has until Dec. 31, 1992, to reach a conclusive agreement with the London Club, but sources here expected the deadline to be extended by another six months by the IMF.

"The IMF appreciates Jordan's firm commitment to the restructuring programme it has agreed with the fund and supports the Kingdom's position," said one source. "Therefore all chances are that Jordan would be given a further breather until June 1993."

In the meantime, Jordan is "very comfortable" with the Paris Club and is going ahead with finalising bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with individual governments after having reached a broad accord with the group in February this year.

Skirmishes in North Continue; UN Soldier Killed

UN Spokesman Gives Details

NC1211180792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1642 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Israeli occupation forces today intensified tension in the liberated Lebanese areas adjacent to the occupied border strip. They sent further personnel and armored reinforcements and intensified warplane sorties. A correspondent for the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY in Hasbayya reports that the occupation forces sent additional troops to the border region. He cited eyewitnesses this morning as saying that convoys of armored vehicles crossed the international border toward Lebanon. Security sources in Hasbayya said Israel has supplied the Lahd militias [South Lebanese Army] with 20 T-54 tanks and a number of artillery batteries over the past two days. [passage omitted]

A Nepalese soldier was killed, three others were injured, and a Hizballah member was wounded when shells fell on an international post in the Sribbin-Kafrah area following an armed clash between the international soldiers and Hizballah fighters.

According to details provided by Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], armed Hizballah elements fired Katyushas, other rockets, and machine guns at three Nepalese positions in the Sribbin-Kafrah area. A Nepalese soldier was killed and three UNIFIL soldiers injured. Goksel said UNIFIL is trying to evacuate the wounded using armored vehicles.

A UNIFIL spokesman said a Nepalese patrol spotted eight armed men near al-Huqbal Hill. When ordered to leave, the gunmen opened fire on the international unit, which returned fire. When the Nepalese unit withdrew to its post, it found that one of the gunmen had been wounded. An armored vehicle belonging to the French contingent happened to pass by and also came under fire from the armed men. The vehicle was extensively damaged. The spokesman added: When it later transpired that the wounded gunman belonged to Hizballah, UNIFIL held contacts with Hizballah leaders in Beirut to contain the incident.

Islamic Resistance Statement

NC1211190392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement this evening about its clash with the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL]: While the Islamic Resistance was carrying out its duty of defending our kinsfolk and people, a Nepalese force opened fire on a resistance group without prior warning or justification. Resistance member Husam Jalal was injured in this incident. While he was being transported to Kafra, checkpoints manned by the Nepalese force obstructed his transportation. This led to his death near one of these checkpoints. In the afternoon, the Nepalese force fired a hail of bullets on a civilian vehicle traveling on the Haris-Kafra road, wounding Husam 'Akkari.

Security Situation Updated

NC1211182592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] According to the latest reports from southern Lebanon, extreme tension prevails in the areas of Kafra, Yatar, Rshaf, Haris, and Sribbin. Our correspondent in the border area reported that a fierce clash occurred on the approaches to Rshaf at 1645 today between a group of gunmen and an Israeli unit. Israeli artillery units launched a violent bombardment of the villages of Kafra and Yatar. Israeli helicopters conducted large-scale strafing of the area.

Our correspondent reported that three Israeli soldiers were injured and taken by helicopter to hospitals. He said that violent artillery fire currently is being exchanged between the opposing positions in Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Sribbin, and Rshaf. Amal Movement sources did not confirm or deny reports on an advance on the Sribbin-Kafrah area.

A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent reported that an Israeli force of 10 vehicles advanced outside the security zone toward Sribbin in the central sector. The force was confronted with artillery fire and rockets. He said that shells are falling indiscriminately on the Kafrah-Haris-Sribbin triangle.

According to our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, Wadi Haris, Kafra, and Yatar came under 160-mm artillery fire at 1630 from Yarin. At the same time, Israeli helicopters flew over the villages of Bayt Lif, Sribbin, Jabal al-Humayyid, and Wadi al-'Uyun. At 1645, Wadi al-'Uyun again came under a barrage of 155-mm artillery and 105-mm tank fire from Blat and Yarin. Israeli warplanes strafed Wadi al-'Uyun until 1710. At 1710, an Israeli force advanced from al-Qawzah toward Wadi al-'Uyun, where violent clashes ensued. At 1730, villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under sporadic shelling. Unconfirmed reports said vehicles advanced toward Sribbin and that the area came under a violent barrage of fire. At 1750, the al-Litani River came under sporadic shelling. In addition, the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and al-Qa'qa'iyah came under violent bombardment.

'Cautious Calm' Reported

NC1211220092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Apart from some sporadic shelling, a state of cautious calm is prevailing in the south amid a general alert of the military forces in south Lebanon. This follows a volatile day during which a member of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon's Nepalese contingent was killed and three others injured in a clash with Hizballah. One Hizballah member was also killed.

Three Israelis were injured in a clash between the Israeli forces and Hizballah in Rshaf. One Hizballah member was killed and another captured. Israeli helicopters are overflying the south, dropping flares. Israeli gunboats are cruising off the coast from Sidon to Ra's al-Naqurah.

Amal Troops at Army Disposal

NC1311121092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] A responsible Amal Movement source today said that in view of the tense situation in the south, the Amal Movement has declared a general mobilization and placed its troops at the disposal of the Lebanese Army.

'Puzzle' of U.S. Positions on South Viewed

NC1211144292 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 3

[From "The Events" column by Fu'ad Da'bul: "The South as Defined in The American Dictionary"]

[Text] American talk of the situation in the south is like American talk about parliamentary elections in Lebanon.

It is the kind of talk that is open to explanation, interpretation, and deduction.

The U.S. State Department spokesman says the best way to keep the peace and security of the people in southern Lebanon and northern Israel is to have a strong and effective government in the south [as published] that can extend its authority throughout Lebanon.

The first question that comes to mind is whether Washington believes that the new government in Lebanon fits the State Department's statement welcoming Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri a few days ago. Or could it be that for this government to match these specifications, it should impose its authority on all Lebanese territory?

In the language of the United States, this expression is defined in the Bush Administration's dictionary as disarming Hizballah after it joined the Lebanese system, when some of its members were elected to the new Chamber of Deputies.

In the language of the Lebanese, the American talk means Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and implementation of Resolution 425. Then not a single bullet will be fired on Israel from Lebanese territory. There will be no justification left for continuing the resistance or for arms remaining in the south with Hizballah or other parties.

In Israel's language, the American policy in Lebanon rests on the withdrawal of the Syrian, Israeli, Iranian, and other forces from Lebanon.

The American carries his dictionary in his hand and leaves each side to interpret his words.

This is what happened before the Lebanese parliamentary election.

Richard Boucher, who delivers the State Department's statements, would repeat daily that the United States backs free, honest, and just elections without any external pressure on Lebanon.

The opposition, along with a large part of the Lebanese public, understood this to mean that the United States opposes elections and that if it expected them to be honest and fair, it would not have had to repeat these points.

The proelectionists thought it meant that the U.S. Administration supported elections. They understood its statements to mean that it encouraged free and honest elections. "No one describes his own oil as murky," the popular Lebanese saying goes. The government, which prepared the election lists before preparing for the elections themselves, did not stop lecturing about the honesty, democracy, and fairness of these elections.

The U.S. stand progressed gradually and statements emerged to the effect that Washington judges by the results of elections, not the elections themselves.

This is where the opposition became sure that the United States opposes elections, because the statements it issued were clear, especially after the complete Christian boycott.

But the United States kept quiet after the results came out, because states recognize regimes, not elections.

The question now is: What kind of central government does the U.S. Administration demand to stop violence in the south?

The problem is that the Bush administration expresses its stands, but does not specify them.

Each party or side interprets the U.S. stand as supportive.

Saddam Husayn understood from the words of U.S. Ambassador in Baghdad April Glaspie that the United States would turn a blind eye if he invaded Kuwait. So he did.

The puzzle in the U.S. stand is quite extraordinary.

Is the "American" purposely vague during the "American age" or should the world feel that the "American age" is for the world to rest assured about life under the U.S. umbrella?

Israel acts today in this lost time, but the fear remains that the south will be lost. Lebanon can then lose the people, the land, and time.

Al-Hariri Government Wins Confidence Vote

NC1211184892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The government has won a confidence vote at the Chamber of Deputies, winning 104 votes against 12 representing Hizballah and the Islamic Group. Three deputies abstained.

During discussion of the government's policy statement, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri emphasized that the opposition should have a role to play in the political process. He said the government will attach attention to the liberation of the south which is a major national goal that has priority, declaring: We are responsible for the liberation of the south. The south is the state's responsibility. Confronting the occupation is a legitimate right that we are emphasizing. No one party has the right to monopolize responsibility for liberating the south. This will not be an issue for exercising one-upmanship.

Al-Hariri added: We adhere to our position that UN Security Council Resolution 425 must be implemented and we are committed to a just solution of the Middle East issue in solidarity with the other Arab countries.

Concerning the abolition of political sectarianism, al-Hariri announced that the government has decided to follow up on the implementation of the national accord document and stressed that it is committed to its completion.

On the financial issue, al-Hariri said that borrowing is one method of financing necessary and productive projects, but is not the only way. He remarked: The government is perfectly aware of the pitfalls of borrowing.

Al-Hariri Speaks

NC1211200092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1720 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri delivered at the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut at the conclusion of the debate on the government's policy statement on 12 November—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: Now that the honorable deputies have finished debating the government statement, I am obligated to extend to them my thanks and appreciation. I extend special thanks to His Excellency Speaker Nabih Birri for conducting the sessions over the past two days and thanks also to all the deputies, without exception—those who announced that they are granting their vote of confidence in the government and those who announced that they will not grant it their vote of confidence.

In any case, we all stand under this democratic canopy. Democracy is the best means for defending our system and relations. Perhaps duty dictates that we should emphasize our role in defending democracy so it will remain the protector of our role and future. Duty also dictates that we emphasize the role of the opposition in enhancing the work of the government and reinforcing it with ideas, plans, and views. This is what was manifested in the debate and the responsible standard it has reached—apart from some exceptions, of course.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies, in trying to respond to the remarks of the honorable deputies, I would like to reemphasize the importance the government will attach to the question of liberating Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation. We see no national or pan-Arab reason for political and media one-upmanship regarding this assurance. To us, the liberation of the south and western al-Biqa' is a major national objective which takes priority in our convictions, behavior, and government performance. Therefore, there is no reason for it to be a mere technical issue viewed like other administrative, technical, or reform priorities. We are responsible for the liberation cause, just as we are responsible for the issue of reconciliation and of defending the country against any major mishaps. We are responsible for defending our people in the south and western al-Biqa', just as we are responsible for every Lebanese citizen. The south is the state's responsibility, and the liberation of the south by all available legitimate means lies at the top of the state's concerns. Resisting the Israeli occupation is a legitimate right which we emphasized in our government statement, and which we emphasize today and until the day when the occupation ends—that is, the day when the original problem ends. Furthermore, supplying the means of steadfastness for our kinsfolk in the south and western al-Biqa' is a right they have against the government and its departments. It is a self-evident matter. The government will shoulder the responsibility of providing these needs through the relevant departments. We see no need to announce these departments' mobilization in these difficult times facing the Lebanese in the south and western al-Biqa'. They are entrusted with carrying out their responsibilities, and they must continue shouldering these responsibilities.

The government is responsible for every citizen in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. It is responsible for every home in the south and western al-Biqa', and consequently, it will not enter a race of one-upmanship with anyone. No party can take on this issue alone or monopolize the issue of liberation. Liberation will not be treated as a race. The blood of the Lebanese, the moans of the injured, and the cries of children are not issues over which one can vie, no matter his qualifications.

We cling to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territories. We are committed to a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East issue in complete solidarity with the Arab countries concerned, particularly sisterly Syria.

Mr. President, Honorable Deputies: In the first government policy statement after independence, read from this forum, it said that sectarianism will be abolished when a blessed comprehensive national awakening emerges in Lebanon. We look forward to a homeland

dominated by unity among the sects, not sectarianism. It concerns us to emphasize that the issue of political sectarianism was discussed at length during the al-Ta'if talks. It was agreed that abolishing political sectarianism constitutes a basic national goal that requires work to achieve it, according to a phased plan.

After the constitutional amendments on 21 September 1990, these principles became part of the Lebanese Constitution. Amended Article 95 of the Constitution pointed out a certain mechanism to achieve this goal. It assigned the Chamber of Deputies the task of forming a national committee to study and propose ways of abolishing sectarianism, to submit them to the Chamber of Deputies and the cabinet, and to follow up with a phased plan. In the policy statement, the government declared its commitment to cooperate with your dignified Chamber to follow up on the national accord document outlined in letter and spirit. The government asserts its commitment to the text of the national accord document in this respect and the provisions of the Constitution.

Regarding the proposals on borrowing, we would like to point out to you that borrowing is one way of financing necessary and productive projects. But this is not the only means that the government can use, nor is it an alternative to other means. The government realizes the pitfalls of this method of funding projects. The answer, however, lies in a careful study by the Chamber of Deputies and the government of the projects that will be referred to your esteemed Chamber with appropriate formulas to protect the state's financial policy.

While no one disputes the need to establish ministries that will seek to end the tragedy of displaced citizens, remedy alienation, confront the social aftereffects of the wars which befell us, and oversee the environment, transportation, culture, higher education, and vocational and technical education, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has special importance. This is because of the provision in the national accord document that calls for administrative decentralization.

Concerning government departments, the consensus is to reform, modernize, and end corruption. A large number of the esteemed deputies have focused on the need to safeguard the reform process against interventions so that only corrupt employees will be removed while competent ones will remain.

I believe this to be the wish of the people's representatives. The government will commit itself to this wish, God willing. God willing, no one will intervene.

Concerning privatization, I was astonished at what some deputies said about this subject, to which the government policy statement did not refer at all. I wish to stress that the government's objective is to provide the best services to the citizens at the lowest cost while maintaining state ownership of public facilities.

Your Excellency, Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Deputies: We must not forget the proper definition of expatriation. Some expatriates behave as if they were living in the country: Their hearts, minds, wealth, and efforts reflect that they are residents. Regrettably, some residents actually are expatriates in their hearts. In their minds, they are far away; their wealth is abroad. While we regret some people's fabrications and distortions of the facts, we assert that their statements will not deter us from fulfilling our tremendous responsibility to salvage our country. As the Lebanese people always have known us, we will continue to build where such people used to destroy and continue to destroy.

Your Excellency Mr. Speaker, Honorable Deputies: I will not enter into arguments based on political illusions. We are calling for the fulfillment of aspirations. As we prepare to assume responsibility, we are willing to listen to every criticism, no matter how sharp. We constitute a government which wants to work and to join the esteemed Chamber of Deputies in restoring the state's prestige, liberating the land, and rebuilding the homeland. We are a government that is committed to liberation and reform, that believes in salvation, and looks forward to a better future. It is strengthened by your precious confidence, which is the foundation of our work and the secret of our success. Long may you live. Long live Lebanon.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Favors Arming Bosnia

AU1211180092 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1700 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Report on statements by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar by Elisa Wasch in Vienna on 12 November; al-Shar speaks in English with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today advocated the lifting of the UN economic and arms embargo against Bosnia-Hercegovina. Al-Shar' is paying an official visit to Vienna at the moment. He also said that the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference will soon discuss potential arms deliveries to Bosnia. Elisa Wasch reports:

[Wasch] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' hopes that the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina will soon be stopped. However, if this is not the case, the Bosnian people should have the chance to defend themselves, perhaps with weapons from Islamic countries.

[Al-Shar] It is unfair that the people of Bosnia have to suffer from this embargo. The embargo should be lifted. On 1 December, a conference of the Islamic foreign ministers will be held in Jeddah, at which we will discuss potential arms deliveries to Bosnia. A consensus must be achieved on this issue.

[Wasch] A consensus is also urgently necessary in the Mideast peace negotiations. So far no progress has been made in the negotiations between Israel and Syria in the current seventh round, even though a clear rapprochement between the two states had taken place during the previous, the sixth, round. For the first time, Israel had expressed readiness to negotiate about a partial withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights, which have been occupied since 1967. However, Syria is staying tough and insists on complete Israeli withdrawal. Says Foreign Minister al-Shar':

[Al-Shar] So far, the Israeli delegation has not come up with a clear response to the Syrian proposal. We hope that the Israelis will put forward new ideas. However, there cannot be a peace treaty without a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is the A-B-C of the solution.

[Wasch] However, if one believes official Syrian statements, a partial peace between Syria and Israel is not possible, anyway. Syria insists on the unconditional fulfillment of the three UN Resolutions, which demand the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories.

Washington Peace Talks, Lebanese Resistance Viewed

JN1211095492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "U.S. Credibility Put to the Test," the newspaper TISHRIN editorial says that by testing the resolve of the international community, Israeli leaders want to achieve certain objectives other than the perpetration of aggression.

The paper affirms that they seek to torpedo the peace process and turn back the clock to the period preceding the Gulf war, when the United States was committed to neither the implementation of international law by all parties without exception, nor to efforts to establish a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of trading land for peace.

TISHRIN adds: It is no coincidence then that Israeli leaders rejected a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary [title as heard] James Baker to advance the peace process. Similarly, it is no coincidence that they are refusing to discuss substantive issues, foremost among which being withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and biding their time pending the assumption of power by the Clinton administration in the United States in the hope of blackmailing the new U.S. president and pressuring him into commitment to his election campaign statements, in which he expressed a willingness to allow the alliance with Israel to reach new heights.

TISHRIN goes on to say: If the current Israeli intransigence continues, the Washington talks will be headed for a complete dead end. These talks would then lose their momentum and become futile. Therefore, the cosponsors of the Madrid conference must shoulder their responsibilities. International law is being violated at the hands of the Israelis; the resolutions of international legitimacy are being held in contempt by these rulers; and occupation is being maintained in violation of the most basic international principles and norms. Consequently, peace will remain elusive unless Israel complies with the relevant Security Council resolutions, restores all occupied Arab territories to their rightful owners, and halts injustice and repression against the Palestinian people. Hence, we are dutybound to note that the international community will be the loser if Middle East peace is not achieved, and that the U.S. credibility is at stake.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH sheds light on the tense situation in southern Lebanon against the backdrop of the recent serious Israeli escalations.

The paper affirms that Israel's actions in southern Lebanon are aimed at obstructing the peace talks. Not only this, the paper notes, this Israeli conduct in southern Lebanon also reflects a carefully-studied policy, the purposes of which are well known, drawn up a long time ago. It is a well-known fact that Israel, since the era of Ben-Gurion, has been planning to annex southern Lebanon and seize its water resources. Thus far, it has managed to realize some of its ambitions after it occupied part of southern Lebanon and seized control of the

al-Wazzani springs and al-Hasbani River, not to mention its theft of the al-Litani River waters through pumping its water to northern settlements.

AL-THAWRAH adds: One of the peculiar things about Israeli policy is that while perpetrating all these aggressive and provocative acts, Israel wants the Lebanese Government and people to remain idle and passive, forgetting that resistance is a legitimate right enshrined in international law and all international charters.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Lebanese national resistance will neither lay down arms, nor hesitate to step up its resistance operations. It will continue to confront the occupation troops until southern Lebanon is freed and until the last Israeli soldier evacuates the last inch of occupied Lebanese territory.

Press Says Israel Buying Time in Peace Talks

JN1311113492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the Middle East peace talks, saying: After three rounds of talks held by the delegations participating in the talks this week, it has become quite clear that the Israeli side is not carrying anything new—anything different from the distorted and fallacious conceptions and ideas it brought up earlier regarding the nature of the peace required, its components, and its requirements.

The paper notes that the Israeli side continues to cling to the very ideas and principles which rendered futile the previous rounds of talks. This is, the paper maintains, what has caused the peace process to run into a stalemate and turn into a waste of both time and effort at the same time.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the Israeli side is adamantly determined to thwart this round of talks, just as it did with the previous six rounds of talks. That is why, the paper notes, we see it laying irrational emphasis on procedural and marginal issues that are of no relevance whatsoever to the real issue which must be at the heart of the negotiations and which are also unrelated to any of the basic terms of reference upon which the peace process was based, particularly those relating to a comprehensive solution, the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the same issue, saying: Each and every observer who follows Middle East issues is now well aware that Israel wants to prolong the negotiations and is procrastinating in the hope of imposing a fait accompli in the end. The Israeli negotiator acknowledged that he is not authorized to discuss the requirements of peace, such as the future of the occupied Arab territories and commitment by Israel to UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-BA'TH points out that it is a well-known fact that Israel has obtained, throughout the duration of the efforts to achieve peace, immense military and financial support that made it more intransigent and more defiant of the wishes to achieve peace.

The paper adds: Israel, which deceived the world by the seemingly dramatic change in power it witnessed, is blackmailing the world community in the name of this change at a time when no one, thus far, has seen any change in the way Israel perceives the need for a just peace, its components, and its requirements.

The paper stresses that the Arabs are concerned about peace. However, the paper adds, they will not let time be wasted. Besides, they will not accept that Israel and its allies use these negotiations to thwart the peace process, the paper argues.

The paper continues: The Israelis are determined to waste time. As for the Arabs, they are interested in achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Bangladesh

Editorial Views Clinton's Election, Tasks

BK1211141992 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Nov 92 p 5

[Editorial: "Clinton, America—and The World"]

[Text] 'The gods did smile' but it seems they have done so on the wrong side of their mouths, for Mr. Bush. The media, domestic and international, stay vindicated. President Bush has lost and Mr. Clinton has won, hands down.

Campaign-wise it was the fiercest, and perhaps muddiest, presidential race in American elections. May be, the rather unseemly personal attacks on Clinton by Mr. Bush, particularly on character issues, cost Mr. Bush votes, and drew the voter closer to Mr. Clinton.

But, as American tradition has it, all this is buried in past history. And the grace with which Mr. Bush has conceded defeat and pledged all support for the Democratic President is the basic style in American Democracy and the Presidential campaign that precedes it.

Mr. Clinton, 46, becomes the second-youngest elected President in American history and the first Democrat to win since 1976. With the euphoria mellowing into a hard sense of the task set before the new President the four years for him are going to be pretty tough going. At the centre of the campaign as well as the expectations raised among the America electorate has been the national economy and the stagnation it slided into over the years since Mr. Bush took over from Mr. Reagan in 1988.

The middle-class voter that overwhelmingly supported Mr. Clinton would look forward to such concrete policy prescriptions from Mr. Clinton as will actually ease their economic hardship by tax relief, creation of employment opportunities and an overall boost to their economic wellbeing as promised by President-elect Bill Clinton.

Crime and family values are among other issues to which as much presidential attention would need to be given considering the decline in social discipine in American society. And that is obviously going to be among other priorities for Mr. Clinton to address,—and the quicker he will be able to make a success of his economic mission, to begin with, the smoother will be the journey for him over the four years given to him by his people.

Next to the economy which is domestically so crucial (the rejection of Mr. Bush by the voter was centrally on this question) is American foreign policy. It promises to be as demanding as the economy would be at home. There certainly is no American rolling up and going home for America, as has been dourly thought by many who applauded Mr. Bush's success in the handling of foreign affairs. Mr. Clinton assures his voters there will be continuity and no major departure from Mr. Bush's foreign policy. Nevertheless, the world that has emerged following the end of the cold war has already spawned a pattern of problems of peace, human rights, arms proliferation, including that of nuclear weapons (particularly in Asia) that will ask for: (1) a more committal approach and treatment from a unipolar power like America (in a world with no rival powers). In Europe, immediately, the worst violation of human rights in ex-Yugoslavia (in Bosnia) is a live test case for the American Presidency.

Even if Mr. Clinton contemplates no direct involvement in the Bosnian tangle and would not rush in where the EC, for instance, feared to tread, the world feels like asking why anything like a double standard America, of all peoples, should appear to be pursuing so far as the protection of human rights is concerned. In the post-Cold War world that (protection of human rights) has to be, as it has been, in principle, in the past, at the core of America's foreign policy. Mr. Clinton looks committed, to both democracy and human rights. That still remains to be demonstrated with more reassurance for the victims of violations of human rights around the world. Among other means, economic aid packages tied to human rights and democracy may help reinforce the democracy and human rights cause in the world outside America.

Peace in the Middle East—in special between Arabs and Israel—has to be pursued with as much tenacity as has been by leaders like Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker. There can be no break or let-up in the effort and continuity of the talks till success is achieved. And that will be first shining foreign policy feather in Mr. Clintons' Presidential cap.

Arms cuts, cuts in defence expenditure will inevitably mean a sizable cut in the production of arms and the trade in them which feeds a vital part of the industrial economies. The world as it stands today is riddled with arms. Easy access to arms, even teenagers, coming to possess them (e.g. in America) and their spread among anti-socials in third world countries have created yet another problem of peace and order the world over. An imaginative global policy towards curbing forces that thrive on anti-social activity is another crucial recipe that Clinton's America might think of both on domestic and global grounds.

Among other major international obligations is America's role in the United Nations. It is encouraging to know that he would have Germany and Japan as new members of the Security Council. But the larger and more urgent problem for the UN to solve is its financial difficulties plus its shrunken executive authority in dealing with the increasing rate of civil commotion and violation of human rights despite—and, paradoxically, because of the end of the cold war.

Mr. Clinton wanted change. And his voters have endorsed it in a big way. The world also has changed tremendously placing almost wholly on one super power the obligations to put it right, because it has manifestly gone out of joint.

America and the third world has another most important relation. That embraces trade and economy. If that is not liberalised at the US end and third world export is not let in without 'protection' the latter will continue as stunted as ever. Here are also a set of expectations raised among us to be fulfilled under the auspices of the new American President.

We as a newspaper and a new-born democracy offer our warmest felicitations to Mr. Clinton on his election as President of the United States hoping that America and the United Nations joining forces will give a new boost to truth, justice, human rights and democracy, all which are increasingly facing a threat in most of the third world, nationally or regionally.

Our compliments also go to Texan billionaire Mr. Ross Perot on his sense of humour and forceful presentation of America's real problems during the campaign.

Diplomatic Relations With Estonia Established

BK0811140692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Estonia have signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Bangladesh Ambassador to Russia Mustafizur Rahman and Estonian Information Minister [title as heard] Ain Saarmann signed the protocol in Tallinn today. It provides for the establishment of diplomatic missions at the ambassadorial level. Both sides agreed to uphold the principles of equity, mutual respect, sovereignity, territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's affairs in line with the UN Charter.

Iran

Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1311120492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Delivering the Tehran Friday prayers sermons today, Ayatollah Jannati, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult for the affairs of Bosnia-Hercegovina, thanked the exalted leader as well as the president and the great Iranian nation for their massive help to the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He also thanked the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its coverage of the people's sincerity in helping those oppressed people.

Referring to efforts, such as those made by the International Committee of Red Cross, to evacuate the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina in a humanitarian move to save human life, he said: These measures are in the interests of Serbs only, because there is no guarantee that evacuees will be returned to their homes. According to reports in the foreign media, areas that have been evacuated are immediately occupied by the Serbs, who then change the names of these places, leaving no sign of Islam behind; for example, 750 mosques in Bosnia-Hercegovina have been destroyed.

Drawing on previous experience, he said that the ceasefire declared in Bosnia-Hercegovina lacks any value. He added that what is certain is that the Serbs and their supporters have already attained their objectives. Sooner or later they will raise the issue of sitting down at the negotiating table. Yet, the issue of occupying 75 percent of Muslim territory, the massacre of 200,000 Muslims, the more than one and a half million refugees and thousands of injured people cannot be solved through negotiations. Therefore, we must quickly help the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina; their cries for justice must be heard all over the world.

Referring to the silence of world organizations, the interim Friday prayers imam of Tehran asked: Couldn't other countries at least expel the representatives of Serbs from their countries?

Ayatollah Jannati added: A look at the present situation of Islamic societies in various regions—from Bosnia-Hercegovina to the Central Asian republics and Palestine—shows that the objective of the arrogant group is to hit at Islam and prevent the resurgence of true Islam.

He said: Regarding Palestine, we are seeing possible compromise, in which case justice-seeking Palestinian Muslims may have no protectors in their own territory. Henceforth, every move they make will be branded as sedition and thus severely suppressed.

He said that our duty as a revolutionary Muslim country is simply to stand firm. He added: Recent events have proved that only in Iran is it possible to defend Islamic values. Our country must make efforts to resolve its problems and embark on a wide-ranging campaign for reconstruction. As such, Iran must prepare itself to build for the future and be ready to confront the enemies of Islam. That is a very difficult task. It can be done only if in all our tasks, especially finding solutions to economic problems, we rely on God and spirituality.

He said that indifference and laxity in reconstruction affairs will be unacceptable. He stressed the need for all the strata of people, especially university professors, to make efforts for reconstruction and also for the glory of the country and Islam.

Referring to the U.S. election, he said that changing the position of individuals, political parties, and factions will never change the anti-religion and anti-human policy of arrogance. He added: Relying on God's blessing, we can always stand firm against such policies. They themselves admit that we pose a serious danger to arrogance. For right has always been a danger to wrong. It is something of which we are proud.

President Affirms Policy on Gulf Islands

LD1111213192 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the visiting chief of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Algabid that Iran's policy towards its islands in the Persian Gulf is unchangeable.

"It is in the interest of the region and the world that regional countries settle their problems without any hue and cry or foreign intervention and in a peaceful and Islamic atmosphere," the president said, adding that OIC can help materialize this important goal.

Terming the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina as a major problem of the Islamic world, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Muslim states should go beyond rhetoric and rush to the help of Bosnian Muslims, practically and seriously.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic has done all within its power to help the oppressed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Algabid that the Islamic republic expects OIC to mobilize all resources of Islamic countries to meet the needs of the Bosnian people.

The OIC chief said that he was here to exchange views with the Iranian president on problems of Muslim countries especially the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina as well as an extraordinary meeting of Muslim foreign ministers to be held soon in Jeddah upon Iran's request.

Algabid, who is a participant in the 17th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] which opened here Tuesday, also briefed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on a previous meeting of OIC foreign ministers in Istanbul and the agenda of their future session in Jeddah.

He lauded the leader of the Islamic revolution, government and people of Iran for their full-scale support for Bosnian Muslims and for declaring a week as a week of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Teachers Return to Abu Musa

LD1211153692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Twelve teachers of the Abu Musa school, together with their families, arrived on the island this morning from al-Shariqah. Earlier the Supreme National Security Council had explicitly declared that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward Abu Musa has not changed in any way and that Tehran remains committed to its previous agreements.

With the removal of security problems that existed with regard to some of the non-Emirate nationals of Abu Musa Island and with the return of the teachers and the resumption of work of the Abu Musa school, the island's situation will gradually return to normal, as agreed to by the Islamic Republic of Iran and al-Shariqah.

Larijani Examines Impact of Clinton Victory

PM1211170392 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Nov 92 p 1

["Exclusive" article by national security adviser Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "U.S. Policy in Gulf on Threshold of Serious Change"]

[Text] Although the economic crises which the United States is suffering caused Bush's astonishing defeat, the economic factor was not the only reason for the arrival of the Democrats, who were able to conquer the White House. Loss of the people's confidence in the government's competence and policies was the most important factor that revealed the American people's desire for change, change that they believe is closer to their aspirations.

Those who experienced World War II expressed their feelings in the United States via a call for Western unity and international cooperation. As for politicians who belong to the post-war age and the so-called baby-boom era, they insulate themselves and are not in harmony with others. Certainly, Clinton belongs to the second group, as his disharmony with the "U.S." Western group [as published] emerged the moment he won. Washington threatened West European states that it would resort to an embargo if those states continue to subsidize agricultural products in order to confront the United States.

European reactions erupted as though it was the beginning of a raging trade war. Clinton believes that the United States should remain a leader in the West, but this issue does not depend so much on Western acceptance as on a U.S. power capable of having its way. Then the West will be forced to accept its leadership so that Washington can tackle the shortcomings that arose after the Cold War in its leadership after the Cold War before this leadership is weakened to enable the European states to have their say in isolation from the U.S. leadership. [sentence as published]

I believe that if Washington's policy during the Clinton era continues at the same rate of speed as the Bush administration, it will be the best gift Washington can offer to Germany and France, which are seeking to eradicate the U.S. presence from the European continent.

At the international level, human rights and the protection of the environment will be the pivot of U.S. political moves so they can be exploited to serve its political aims.

The United States' preoccupation during the Clinton era to improve economic conditions affects not only its relations with Europe and Japan, but also the new U.S. method of dealing with the oil countries. The horizons of the new U.S. programs at the foreign level can be summed up as follows:

— Washington will deemphasize its international interests, especially in the corridors of the United Nations.

— The U.S. drift toward the Pacific Ocean region will be reinforced, moving away from Europe.

— Regarding the American continent, the U.S. move toward self-protection will be reinforced.

— Washington will devote more attention to the Gulf region and the oil-producing Arab states, and this point will characterize the Democrats' foreign policy in the last years of this century.

One of the important issues to which Clinton should pay attention is the power crisis in Iraq. Although the Baghdad government is hoping to find a solution to its problems with Washington under the new administration and believes that Clinton does not adhere to the policies and positions of former President Bush, the U.S. reaction toward Iraq—apart from the questions raised by Clinton in his election campaign—is determined by numerous factors, primarily the necessity for the United States to control oil sources. The new U.S. president will find himself obliged to safeguard the confidence of the Arab governments in the region. He will, however, keep Saddam in power and try to weaken him gradually. He will encourage Iraq's partition into three states: two oil-producing states in the north and the south, and a third ruled by Saddam in the center, because it is better for the Democrats that three governments emerge instead of a unified Iraq.

I believe that Saddam—and he is always the aggressor—will attack those two oil-producing states. This will not necessarily occur today or tomorrow. Actually, Saddam would attack them if he discovers they have become very rich states; this may take some time to achieve. If this thesis is correct, it must be said that U.S. policy in the Gulf region is today on the threshold of a serious change.

Envoy Summoned to UK Foreign Office Over Rushdie

LD1211191392 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—For the first time since Iran renewed relations with Britain two years ago, the Foreign Office has raised the subject of the fatwa on the life of apostate author Salman Rushdie.

Iran's Charge d'Affaires Gholam Reza Ansari was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in London Thursday to be told that the British Government takes "very seriously" the statement by Chief Justice Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i, reiterating the obligation of all Muslims to carry out the death sentence.

At a general meeting of Iran's Supreme Court on Tuesday, the chief justice confirmed that the fatwa was irrevocable and had been confirmed by more than 40 countries at the Organization of Islamic Conference.

In a 20 minute meeting, Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg was said to have "protested in the strongest possible terms" and mentioned that the statement was not the first to reiterate the duty on all Muslims to implement the Islamic decree.

The Foreign Office denied that the raising of the subject was intended as a distraction to the current furore embroiling the government over illegally supplying arms to Iraq, both during Baghdad's imposed war on Iran and prior to its invasion of Kuwait.

A spokesman went as far as suggesting that the comments by Ayatollah Moqtada'i "appeared to call into question" the honoring of not interfering in British affairs, undertaken mutually when relations between the two countries were restored in November 1990.

It was also understood that Britain was fully aware that the fatwa, issued by the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni in February 1989, was an Islamic decree that could not be altered. The presumption was that as a religious issue it would not be used to interfere in diplomatic relations between London and Tehran.

Since the fatwa was decreed, the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous book, *The Satanic Verses*, has lived in hiding but recently has been allowed to make increasing private appearances with special security precautions in several countries.

Commentary Says UK Exports to Iraq Anti-Iranian

LD1211150192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The British and the U.S. press have published two reports in recent days that prove the unbalanced and unprincipled behavior of these two states toward Iran. The first is a highly sensational report in Britain concerning that government's lies about the sale to Iraq of some technical equipment in the course of the imposed Iran-Iraq war, equipment having possible weapons applications. The second report concerns a request from the Bush government to U.S. allies asking them to curtail the sale of technology to Iran because, according to claims made by a U.S. Government spokesman, Iran supports terrorism.

The political sensation in Britain, referred to by some as Iraqgate, is partially the result of disputes and rivalries between the Labour and Conservative Parties. Each party is trying to undermine the other in the public eye. The power struggle, however, clearly exposes the unbalanced behavior of the British Government regarding its own declared policies. During the eight years of Iraq's war against Iran, the British Government declared neutrality. Making public the equipment sale to Iraq, along

with the fact that managers of the Matrix Churchill Company were persuaded to carry on with their activities, launched a new scenario, the minimum effect of which is the continued decline of the British people's trust in the foreign and economic policies announced by the government.

At the same time, in view of the catastrophic and tragic consequences of these unprincipled and covert actions, such as the destructive Gulf war, which from time to time create political crisis in Britain, it would be appropriate to make a judgement and evaluation.

On the surface, the Bush government's request of its allies to stop the export of technology to Iran is is in harmony with some of their joint regional policies. [sentences as heard] Some observers, however, believe that this request is in line with the policies often dictated by the United States to its allies, without much success.

Iran's significant economic capacity to participate in economic activities while safeguarding its national interests, particularly with some European states, seems to have increased U.S. concern. The poor performance of the U.S. economy, compared with the economy of such countries as Japan and some European states, eventually frustrated Bush's attempt to find his way back to the White House.

For some years now the United States has been trying to deprive Iran of some industrial products. But thanks to the total stability of the Islamic Republic of Iran's regime, the United States has failed. The U.S. request from its allies is also worthy of investigation within the framework of that country's medium- and long-term policies toward Iran. The United States, particularly since George Bush's description of the new world order, has for various reasons always tried to interfere in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries. The United States is trying to impose a limit on these relations. Apart from economic motives, the U.S. Government has never denied that a powerful Iran threatens America's arrogant interests. Closely following such policies has prevented U.S. statesmen from adopting a realistic policy toward Iran, free from colonial and arrogant interests. During their entire period in office in the past several years, the Republicans pursued such a policy.

There is another view which says the Zionist regime, faced with growing popular resistance in occupied Palestine and with Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon, is pressuring America to impose restrictions on Iran. Some political experts also believe that the Bush government's latest measure against Iran lacks the necessary effectiveness to bring major changes in Iran's policy or to affect its economy; for neither will U.S. allies give a serious, positive response to this request, nor will Iran fail to overcome the difficulties that the implementation of this request might bring.

The recent exposure of the British Government's arming Iraq and the U.S. call to put technological pressure on Iran, are two sides of the same coin which is being used to promote hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But after the end of the Cold War, the balance of power tilted in favor of Iran when its position was justified in the imposed war, a war in which both the United States and Britain fought on the same front with Iraq against Iran and thanks to Iran's proper stand in the regional developments, particularly the occupation of Kuwait [as heard].

Besharati: ICO Must Work To End Bosnian Arms Embargo

LD1111172792 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here today that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] must seek to compel the United Nations to lift the arms embargo on the aggressed Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina [B-H]. He said the proposition should be included in the agenda of the upcoming OIC foreign ministerial meeting in Jeddah December 1-2.

Besharati who was talking to the OIC Secretary General, Hamid Algabid, said the U.N. imposed arms embargo on B-H and Serbia has in fact placed the Muslim people of Bosnia in a far more disadvantageous position in their confrontation with the Serbians. He said as soon as the embargo is relaxed the road to helping the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina would open to the Muslim nations of the world.

Algabid who is in Tehran for the 17th meeting of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), said the meet in Jeddah would offer a proper opportunity for adopting a common strategy whereby to put an end to the catastrophic situation in B-H.

He said the Muslim world needs a novel universal strategy on the basis of which to fight "the daily-increasing crimes of the Serbians."

Besharati noted that the government and people of Iran have thus far rushed assistance including foods and medicines to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina as a token of their concern about their unhappy condition of the republic's Muslims.

Presidential Adviser Comments on Bosnia's Muslims

LD1111221892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Ms. Habibi, presidential adviser on women's affairs, described the results of the visit to Bosnia-Hercegovina, in an interview with correspondents upon her return to Tehran. She said: The imposed war against the Muslims—the tyrannized people of Bosnia-Hercegovina—has not resulted in the diluting of Islam there. On the contrary, it has spread Islam among the people.

Referring to the terrible status of the Muslims and the tyrannized Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees in labor camps, the adverse health conditions in those camps, and the shortage of food and clothing, she recalled the warm welcome given to Iran's delegation by the Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees and referred to the positive effects of Iran's humanitarian aid for the tyrannized Bosnian Muslims and said: They are all grateful for the kindness and sympathy of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and consider Islamic Iran as their friend.

Noting the West's ignoring the genocide of the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Ms. Habibi added: The people and the women of Bosnia-Hercegovina [as heard] persevere in their defense of Islam and their country and are fighting empty-handed. It is necessary to assist them as soon as possible.

Velayati Comments on Afghanistan, India Visits

LD1211181592 Tehran IRNA in English 0714 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—A meeting on Afghanistan will be held at the initiative of the U.N. Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali at the United Nations Headquarters in a near future, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced here Wednesday.

Speaking upon his return here from a four-day official visit to Afghanistan and India, Velayati said that the U.N. meeting will explore avenues to help Afghanistan. He did not provide further details on the level of the meeting and its participant countries.

He reminded that domestically Afghanistan needed unity and solidarity and internationally it required assistance. He added that the Afghan people and officials have realised that to attract the confidence of others, they should prove that tranquility and stability has been established in their country.

On the results of his visit to India, he described his talks with Indian leaders as useful in strengthening mutual ties. Tehran-New Delhi cooperation in the region and the Indian Ocean as well as the Central Asia were also among topics of Velayati's discussions with Indian officials.

He said a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries on economic and industrial fields. He added that an Indian delegation will arrive here next week to finalise an agreement on power generation in Kerman, southern Iran.

Velayati termed the ceremonies marking the 400th anniversary of the establishment of Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh State, as a manifestation of common Iran-India culture. In Hyderabad Velayati inaugurated the Iran Culture Week.

Calls Afghan Talks 'Positive'

LD1211191792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] At the conclusion of his visits to Afghanistan and India, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran and was interviewed by our correspondent. He said the outcome of his talks with the Afghan president, minister of foreign affairs, spiritual leaders, and commanders of various Afghan mojahedin groups was positive.

He referred to the significance and the role of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] plays in regional cooperation and stressed the need for Afghanistan's membership in that organization.

He stated: Afghan officials welcomed the proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's membership in the ECO, and it was decided that the matter should be discussed during the next session of that organization.

Mr. Velayati discussed his visit to New Delhi and his talks with high-ranking Indian officials and termed relations between Iran and India in the past year as positive and improving. He said: The range of cooperation between Iran and India has developed beyond political negotiations, and during my visit, we discussed the two countries' cooperation in the economic area and particularly in the electricity, railways, and sugar beet industries.

Mr. Velayati also mentioned that an Indian expert delegation is coming to Tehran next week to assess and finalize Kerman's 800 megawatt power station project and said: During that visit, the Kerman power station project will be finalized.

Referring to the return of 12 teachers, residents of Abu-Musa, from al-Shariqah, our country's foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] We have always stressed that there is no fundamental difference between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and us. The return of the teachers is a practical sign of the goodwill of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has silenced those who were against accord between Iran and the UAE and who were engaged in propaganda over the past few months. We kept saying that such small problems between the two countries could easily be resolved and that there was no reason for others to use them as an excuse to interfere.

God willing, this trend of normalizing ties and resolving our differences with the UAE, as two neighboring countries, will continue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Velayati, recently John Major declared that he would welcome the expansion of Anglo-Iranian ties. What is your opinion?

[Velayati] The Islamic Republic of Iran sees nothing wrong in expanding ties with the British Government based on mutual respect and equal rights, without interfering in each other's internal affairs. Of course, that

does not mean we should go beyond the framework of the principles governing our foreign policy. We have had ties with Britain for many years, and if expanding relations is based on mutual desire and goodwill, we welcome it.

[Correspondent] Recently, we received the news that Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Saudi Arbia are planning to hold a joint session in Ankara on the future of the Iraqi Government. Please tell us what issues will be discussed during that session.

[Velayati] I have some doubts about the goals of the session being exactly what you said. But it is about the present unrest in northern Iraq. The decision to hold the session was taken during His Excellency Mr. Demirel's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are going to Ankara on 14 November, God willing.

[Correspondent] God willing. Thank you very much, Mr. Velayati.

[Velayati] I wish you success. [end recording]

Iraqi POW's Freed; Reciprocation Expected

LD1311120692 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Nov. 12, IRNA—Iran unilaterally released 400 Iraqi prisoners of war at Khosravi border lands Thursday. Representatives from Iran, Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross monitored the Iraqi POWs return home.

An informed source told IRNA that Iran's humanitarian move indicated its good-will and "we expect Iraq to reciprocate our good-will." Iran unilaterally freed 200 more Iraqi POWs last month.

Trade With Turkmenistan of Non-Oil Items Noted

LD1111222692 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Ashgabat, Nov. 11, IRNA—A total of 18,000 tons of non-oil commodities were traded between the north-eastern Khorasan Province and the neighbouring Republic of Turkmenistan through Bajgiran border during the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22, 1992), an official announced here Wednesday.

Hoseyn Ahmadi, in charge of the second Iranian trade fair in Turkmenistan, said economic and trade exchanges between Khorasan Province and Turkmenistan have increased by 250 percent as of last November.

He said the second fair, to be attended by 156 commercial, agricultural and industrial firms of Khorasan and the neighbouring Mazandaran Provinces, will open here on Thursday.

Commentary Views Tensions in Muslim Tajikistan

LD1111111292 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The civil war in Tajikistan is not the result of ethnic differences or power struggle but it is a "war between Islam and blasphemy," say informed sources in the newly independent Pamir republic of Tajikistan.

They add that the enemies of Islam have ganged up together in their bid to suppress the Islamic movement in the country.

The communist and other anti-religious gangs have so far killed 15,000 adherents of pro-Islamic groups and made homeless half a million others, say reliable reports.

The sources said the extermination of Muslims began in that country in the wake of the pro-Islamic demonstration held at Azadi (independence) Square in Dushanbe, which entailed the ousting of parliamentary chairman last February.

Communist attacks against Muslims have increased since the dismissal of President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

Communist forces in the impoverished province of Kulab, have organised themselves to massacre opponents and have expanded their terror to other provinces where religious feelings run high. In Kulab, the communists have burned mosques and torched the holy Quran and other religious books.

To make matters worse the acting Tajik president has called in the Russian and Uzbek forces and placed them on the borders with Afghanistan, thereby blocking the only way for supply of weapons to Tajik Islamic forces.

Ammunitions, tanks, weapons, and armoured personel carriers have been stolen by the communists from the military bases of the so-called Commonwealth forces.

Communists who failed in their recent attack on Dushanbe, destroyed the strategic bridge of Qezel Qaleh that connects the Islamic forces to the capital. After disconnecting these two cities they have continued their operation against Muslims.

At present more than half a million inhabitants have abandoned their homes for safe places, and there is no information about the status of 400,000 others who are besieged by the communists.

The informed sources referred to the repeated trips of U.S. officials and the so-called U.S. humanitarian aid to Kulab Province, saying the situation indicated that Washington is unabashedly supporting anti-Islamic groups.

Deployment of forces along Afghan border is part of a plot for suppressing muslims being carried out with the involvement of foreign powers.

President Stresses High Priority for Education

LD1311105192 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday called on educational officials to strengthen the spiritual and Islamic environment of universities and to step up efforts to increase educational centers and train more scholars.

"Training experts through offering scholarship is the safest way of meeting the country's needs for specialists," the president told the chancellors of universities and head of research centers. With a reduction in government's foreign exchange expenses in many sectors, excluding education, next year, more hard currencies should be allocated to universities and other higher education centers to purchase equipment and books.

The president said the government has given high priority to the higher education sector in its programming. He made it clear that contrary to biased propaganda launched by certain mass media, Iran has a good standing from scientific point of view in the world.

Before the president's speech, Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mostafa Mo'in reported on the efforts of his ministry to train skilled manpower. Mo'in said that under scholarship program 4,600 people are now studying inside the country and 500 abroad as part of his ministry's plan to meet the country's needs for experts.

Basij Centers To Supplement Students' Education

LD1111181292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0740 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The first meeting of the outstanding combative basij [mobilization] students and pupils was held at Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran to mark 4 November [Student's Day]. [passage omitted]

During this meeting, Brigadier General 'Ali Reza Afshar referred to the achievements of basij students, saying: So far, 10,000 basij centers have been set up in the country's schools to give military training to students, along with the teaching of science and technology.

Tehran Police Arrest 423 Drug Smugglers, Addicts

LD1311103792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The law enforcement officers of the Greater Tehran district arrested 423 narcotics smugglers and addicts last week and seized about 30 kg of narcotics of various kinds. They also arrested 65 thieves last week and succeeded in seizing 67.62 million rials worth of stolen goods, which were returned to their rightful owners.

First Ship To Depart Khorramshahr Since War

LD1211000292 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Khuzestan Prov. Nov. 11, IRNA—The first cargo ship destined for a Persian Gulf state will depart Khorramshahr next Saturday, after 12 years, the governor of the port city Mahdi Jaberi announced Tuesday.

Jaberi told IRNA that all administrative and customs obstructions have been removed, and that dredging of the passages are under way, thus enabling vessels with 2 to 3 meters of draught to enter the port through the Arvand River (Shatt-al-'Arab). He called on the merchants and those interested in the revival of the port city to carry out their import and export operations via Khorramshahr.

"The jetties and warehouses are ready for loading and unloading, and Khorramshahr governorate will compensate for any likely losses to the ships, launches and their cargo," Jaberi said.

Referring to the reconstruction efforts in the city, Jaberi said rials 4 billion has been allocated to the development efforts in the city. The revival of the city would also create 30,000 new jobs, he added.

Khorramshahr was occupied and totally destroyed by the Iraqi troops early in the war (1980-1988), however, Iranian forces liberated it on 24 May, 1982.

Official Says First 5-Year Plan Successful

LD1011143492 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The first five-year development plan (1990-94) is going ahead successfully, an Iranian official announced here Monday and hoped that most of the objectives would be achieved by the end of the plan.

Interviewed by the English daily "TEHRAN TIMES", published Tuesday, Presidential Advisor and Director of Free Trade Zones Morteza Alviri said that the plan is ahead of the schedule in some areas while it lags behind in some other fields.

For example, he added the Gross National Product (GNP), fixed at eight percent, is 8.3 percent for the first three years of the plan.

According to Alviri, water, power and gas projects are ahead and progress has been registered at 18.9 percent while the lowest progress was in construction sector, estimated at 3.2 percent.

The ratio of population growth dropped from 3.2 percent to 2.7 percent during the first three years of the five year plan, he noted adding that the target of population growth is anticipated at 2.9 percent by the end of the plan.

The inflation rate which was 28.9 percent in the Iranian year 1367 (March 21, 1988-March 20, 1989) has now dropped to 19.6 percent, he stated.

Alviri said that the existence of various parity rates for hard currency is harmful for the country's economy and held the view that a unified rate of foreign exchange is needed for over-all development of the country.

He disclosed that industrial units are to be entrusted with the private sector in the near future noting that the private sector should take responsibility in production sector.

Concerning foreign investment, Alviri said it should be encouraged on the basis of joint ventures and welcomed paving the way for removing shortages of foreign exchange and transfer of technology along with a modern management system.

He noted that Iran is rich in manpower and natural resources and continued that the ground has been prepared for a healthy economic system in the country.

According to Alviri, Iran enjoys 93 billion barrels of oil reserves and 17 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, enough to meet energy requirements for the creation of a healthy economy.

As for free trade zone plans, he said that they have been prepared in such a way to attract foreign investment, transfer of technology, promotion of non-oil exports and regional developments. However, he said, "unfortunately so far we could not succeed in our mission because of a lack of clear legal situation in those areas."

He told TEHRAN TIMES in conclusion that a bill on free trade zones is being debated in the parliament and after its approval hurdles in the way of free trade zones will be cleared.

Qazvin Thermal Power Station Inaugurated

LD1011163792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning the first 250 megawatt unit of the Shahid Raja'i 2,000 megawatt power station was inaugurated and linked to the national power grid. The share of our country's domestic industrial investment of over 140 billion rials in building and equipping this unit and other installations of the power station, including boilers, cooling towers, filters and fuel supply systems, is about 65 percent .

The Shahid Raja'i thermal power station is designed in eight 250 megawatt units to generate 2,000 megawatts of electricity. Other units will become operational in keeping with a timetable.

Addressing the experts and staff of the Shahid Raja'i power station, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid tribute to the employees of the electricity industry for their efforts, saying: No doubt this important power station is the beginning of a movement which strengthens our belief in ourselves and our reliance on our own efforts.

The president added: The planning and expansion of the electricity industry is one of the top priorities pursued by the government. In addition to building thermal power stations, we should think of harnessing the surface waters to generate electricity.

In conclusion, the president expressed the hope that the country will enjoy a secure electricity supply next year.

Prior to the president's remarks, Energy Minister Zanganeh said: The project inaugurated today is one of the gains of the First Five-Year Plan; and within the same plan 2,500 megawatts of electricity will be added to the national grid by next summer. [passage omitted]

Mostafa Hejri Appointed Kurdish Party Leader

NC1311082092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran on the occasion of the third plenum of the party's Central Committee]

[Text] Dear compatriots, respectable people of Kordestan, cadres, peshmerga, and members of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK]: The third plenum of the DPK Central Committee opened at 0900 on Wednesday, 11 November 1992, with a minute of silence commemorating the memory of martyrs Comrade Dr. Sharafkandi, DPK secretary general; Comrade Fatah 'Abdoli, member of the Central Committee and DPK representative in Europe; Comrade Homayun Ardalan, DPK representative in Germany; and all the martyrs who have given their lives for the liberation of our people.

At the plenum, two candidate members were elected to the Central Committee and one of the Central Committee members was elected to the party's Political Bureau. Combatant Comrade Mostafa Hejri, successor to the secretary general, was elected secretary general.

The plenum successfully concluded its activities at 1700 hours of the same day.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the DPK

[Dated] 12 November 1992

Discusses Ties with Iraqi Kurds

PM1211125092 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 10 Nov 92 p 20

[Interview with Mostafa Hejri, acting general secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, by Mirella Galletti in Qandil; date not given]

[Text] Mostafa Hejri, the 47-year-old deputy general secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI], is acting secretary of the party following the murder of Secretary Sharifkandi in Berlin in August during the Socialist International meeting.

The interview, the first with a Western journalist, took place in the KDPI base in Qandil in Iraqi Kurdistan, near the Iranian border. The interview took place in the shade of the trees; he was watched over by bodyguards who never leave his side. In three years, Iranian agents have murdered his two predecessors and two of the party's representatives in Europe.

[Galletti] Why is Iran systematically killing Iranian Kurdish leaders?

[Hejri] Iran does not want a free and autonomous Kurdistan. It has always killed our leaders during negotiations. It happened in 1930 with the Kurdish leader Simko, in 1947 with Qadi Muhammad, president of the Kurdish republic in Mahabad, in 1989 when Iranian agents killed Secretary General 'Abd-al-Rahman Qasemlu in Vienna and his successor Sharifkandi last August.

The Iranian Government fears that every Kurd conceals a fighter. The Kurdish revolution is obvious in Iranian Kurdistan because the KDPI has a long history of struggle against the central government. Despite the oppression and murder of our leaders, the KDPI is the most important organization in Iran in the struggle against the government and has carried out numerous actions against the Iranian army.

[Galletti] What is your strategy following the assassination of Sharifkandi?

[Hejri] We are still in a position to fight the regime. We have sent one of the party's leaders to Paris to reorganize our representation in Europe. The population is with us and is teaching children to become peshmerga. They are helping us with contributions and aid for the peshmerga (Kurdish fighters).

Our policy is moderate. We have always tried to negotiate with the regime but we are forced to fight until our rights are recognized.

[Galletti] In Iraqi Kurdistan, to protect you from the possibility of Iranian reprisals, your offices are close to the headquarters of the Iraqi Kurdish parties, whose leaders have recognized that Sharifkandi had frequently eased the Iranian peshmerga's pressures on Tehran to assist the struggle of the Iraqi Kurdish people.

[Hejri] In Iraqi Kurdistan everybody knows and values us. When Dr. Seyyed Sharifkandi was killed, the parties and the government in Iraq promised huge demonstrations against the Iranian Government. We will continue this policy of good-neighborly relations because we think it is the best policy for the region.

[Galletti] During the March 1991 uprising, many members of the KDPI gave their arms to the Iraqi Kurds. Was that individual help or was it party policy?

[Hejri] Perhaps some members, rather than the party, gave help to the population in Iraq. When the uprising took place, the Iraqi army abandoned its arms and Kurdistan was full of arms. The Iraqi Kurds and the Iraqi opposition parties like us very much not because we gave them arms but because we are pursuing the best policy toward them and they value our party's attitude. And this is more important than arms, money, and many other things.

[Galletti] Do you have relations with the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] who have bases in Iraq?

[Hejri] No. At first we had good relations with Mas'ud Rajavi's MKO and we joined the National Resistance Council. The MKO are no different from the Iranian regime. Both support an Islamic Republic. They are not democratic either within or outside the party. And this is a very important point for us. We want nothing to do with a party that is like the Iranian Government. The MKO do not have relations with the other Iranian groups because of their ideology which is characterized by dictatorship and sectarianism. They do not recognize that the Kurds and the other peoples in Iran have any rights. During the people's uprising in Iraq in March 1991, they killed many civilians in the south and in Kurdistan and they are therefore now disliked throughout the country.

[Galletti] Do you have relations with the other Iranian opposition parties?

[Hejri] We have good relations with all the other Iranian opposition parties. Following Sharifkandi's assassination there was a meeting with all these groups aside from the MKO, but these groups are weak and divided.

Many members are in Europe and have no influence in Iran. The Islamic government is weak but the opposition groups are much weaker. This is Iran's main problem.

[Galletti] But are the people's uprisings in the Iranian cities spontaneous or organized by the MKO, as that group maintains?

[Hejri] They are people's uprisings because the population is tired of the Islamic regime and have a very difficult life. There is no work, and a lack of health services and democracy. The population overthrew the shah because they hoped for democracy and economic improvements. But the government has not kept its promises, food prices are very high.

If there were a group capable of organizing the population, the government would be finished. In Mashhad, Esfahan, and the big cities, the demonstrations started spontaneously and ended with the arrest and killing of the demonstrators. For two days last June in Bukan in Iranian Kurdistan, there were demonstrations that we

did not organize in which 12 people were killed and 300 arrested. Some are still in prison.

[Galletti] There are no sufficiently strong groups in Iran.

[Hejri] The regime cannot be overthrown in the short term because of the opposition's weakness. The only possibility is for opposition to develop within the regime, and not among those who are operating in Europe.

[Galletti] What is the state of relations with Baghdad?

[Hejri] We have good relations with Baghdad; we have an office there. For us, it is vital to have a link with Europe, and this is possible through Iraq. Our wounded peshmerga are treated in the capital. Previously, we also obtained arms, but in the past year all supplies have stopped because the border is controlled by the Iraqi Kurds. Generally speaking, the arms we take from Iranian troops are enough.

Relations with Baghdad are openly discussed in our Central Committee. It is similar to a relationship between governments. But, at the same time, we have good relations with the Iraqi opposition. No other Kurdish organization is able to maintain this kind of relation with a government.

[Galletti] The Workers' Party of Kurdistan [PKK] has some bases in Iranian Kurdistan and is supported by the Islamic regime.

[Hejri] The PKK has its main office in Orumiyeh and has many bases on the Turkish-Iranian border. Our peshmerga who are active in the area have reported this fact. Most of the PKK fighters are in Iraq, but after the fighting on the Turkish-Iraqi border, they will be forced to go to Iran where they receive a great deal of help.

[Galletti] What is the solution for Iranian Kurdistan: federation or autonomy?

[Hejri] At the Ninth Party Congress in 1991 we called for autonomy for Iranian Kurdistan. Given the existence of so many nations in Iran it is very difficult to obtain a federation.

[Galletti] It seems that Iranian Kurdistan is the Cinderella of the Kurdish national movement, paying in silence for its support for the Iraqi Kurds' struggle.

[Hejri] We do not want to create problems either for the Kurdish government or for the Iraqi Government and act as if we were on our own land. We are guests. Our program is aimed at Iranian Kurdistan and the Tehran government. We do not want to interfere in the decisions of the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi opposition and we want to maintain good relations with both.

If the government of Iraqi Kurdistan is strong it can help the other Kurdish areas, in Iran, Turkey, and Syria. This is a good opportunity for the Kurds. All the parties influence each other. We must not be forgotten by Europe. It is not important to write about our party, but it is vital to talk of Iranian Kurdistan.

Our people have a hard life and we are oppressed with regard to language, the economy, religion, and culture. There is a dictatorship in Iran. The population is only asking for federation or autonomy, to have a democratic life like all peoples in the world.

Opposition Reports Homes Razed in Nowruzabad

NC1211210192 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] In another criminal act, the anti-human Khomeyni regime razed scores of huts and shanties of the poor in southern Tehran. During this inhuman action in Nowruzabad township in the vicinity of the old Karaj Road, the criminal agents of the municipality destroyed more than 46 homes. Out of fear of arousing the anger and loathing of the deprived residents of Nowruzabad, the regime's municipality embarked on this criminal action with the help of ruffians and agents of repression..

Some days ago, the criminal Khomeyni regime destroyed more than 140 huts and shanties of the poor in Nowruzabad.

Maldives

Gayoom Hints at Fourth Term as President

BK1111131192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Colombo, Nov 11 (AFP)—Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom announced Wednesday he was ready to serve a fourth term as leader of the tiny Muslim atoll nation if parliament nominated him for the job.

Gayoom made the remarks in a speech to the nation marking the country's 25th Republic Day, a statement issued by the Maldvies High Commission (Embassy) here said. The president, who has ruled the Indian Ocean archipelago since 1978, completes his third five-year term in November 1993.

The High Commission quoted Gayoom as saying that "God willing, he will remain to serve his people" if that was the wish of the people and the Citizens Majlis or parliament.

Under the Maldivian Constitution, the Majlis by secret ballot picks a single candidate who must have his nomination approved with a simple majority in a referendum of the nation's 200,000 people.

A minority of the members in the Majlis are nominees of Gayoom, while the others are elected. However, party politics are unheard of in the Maldives where people vote for personalities.

The High Commission statement said that Gayoom thanked his people for their "wide support and endorsement" which helped him to win the Presidency and added that he could "never do them enough in all his life" to show his gratitude.

Gayoom received a landslide "yes" vote in the last referendum in September 1988. He has survived at least two attempts to overthrow him by disgruntled businessmen.

Pakistan

UN Adopts Nuclear-Free Zone Proposal

BK1311115092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] At the United Nations, the Pakistani proposal for establishing a nuclear-free zone in South Asia has been adopted by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly's main committee. The draft, co-sponsored by Bangladesh, received 117 votes in favor, 12 abstentions, and only India and Bhutan against. There was another big shift by France which supported the resolution, thus mounting pressure on India to accept the regional solution to nuclear nonproliferation.

The committee also adopted another Pakistani draft co-sponsored by a record number of 80 countries that upholds the concept of regional disarmament in nuclear field. With the coming aboard of France, all the five nuclear-weapon powers now support the nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia; that is, the concept of regional disarmament in the nuclear field. Diplomats regard as significant the switch in the position of France, saying it would have far-reaching implications on a series of proposals made by Pakistan to ensure that South Asia remains free of nuclear weapons. It also gave boost to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's proposal for the establishment of a nonproliferation regime in South Asia.

India Blamed for No Progress in Siachen Talks

BK1311092792 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian Rigidity"]

[Text] During the last round of talks held between Pakistan and India at the Foreign Secretary level, the two sides had agreed to carry forward the process of negotiations under the June 1989 agreement. In this meeting, Pakistan and India had decided also to work for a comprehensive settlement based on the redeployment of troops to reduce chances of conflict, avoidance of use of force and determination of future positions on the ground to ensure a durable peace in Siachen area. The understanding between the two neighbouring countries on the issues of Siachen and Sir Creek was an encouraging sign as both desired peaceful co-existence, calm on borders and positive conditions in the disputed areas, including Kashmir. But the recently-concluded sixth round of talks between the two sides at Defence Secretary level at New Delhi failed to make any forward movement towards the solution of both the issues, as confirmed by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan at a press briefing. Apparently, in the light of the agreement between the two sides, there was no difficulty in working out the modalities of redeployment of the respective Armed Forces and monitoring arrangements by the military experts, but the stalemate was caused because the Indian side came out with new pre-conditions for the overall settlement of the problem which is unacceptable to Pakistan. Apart from the decision that the two sides would hold the next round of talks at Islamabad and the fact that there was no total disagreement on every point at issue, the introduction of new elements by India after the June 1989 agreement did not augur well for settling the issues. India should have approached the Siachen question with an open mind, adopted a constructive attitude and should not have insisted on its pre-conditions in the larger interests of the two countries and the region.

It is to be recalled that Siachen came into the limelight in 1984 when India moved its troops into the area till then under Pakistan's administrative control. The Pakistan Army quickly moved to check the expansionist designs of India and thwarted its bid to establish its military hegemony. With this background, India's tactics to dawdle away time on the issues of Siachen, Sir Creek in Rann of Kutch and Kashmir and its recent insistence on authentication as to where the forces were before they took the present positions have certain implications. Pakistan feels that in this manner a certain finality would be attributed as to 'where you were.' As Pakistan has stated its position, the two sides should work out from point NJ-9482 and there should be no prejudice as to how the lines should be drawn beyond this point. Siachen, which is a kind of triangle, should be treated as a no man's land in which neither side will intrude, according to Islamabad's point of view. If at this stage, India agrees to sit down to deal with the issue dispassionately and rationally, setting aside a debate on the mode of modalities and its newly hatched-up conditions, then not only Siachen but all the outstanding issues between the two countries would be resolved amicably and satisfactorily.

India Warned Over Refusal To Return Bodies

BK1111164292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Pakistan intends to raise the issue of brutal murder of Pakistani nationals in India at the United Nations, international human rights organizations, and other multilateral forums, and foreign governments to exert pressure on India for immediate exhumation and repatriation of bodies of Pakistani nationals back home. This assurance was given by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, while responding to four identical adjournment motions regarding torturing to death of two

Pakistanis by Indian forces. He assured the House that all necessary measures were being taken to ensure the safety and welfare of Pakistani visitors to India. He warned India that its intransigence to repatriate the bodies of Mr. Intekhab Ahmad Zia and Mr. Habibullah and its refusal to ensure safety of Pakistanis either visiting India or now detained in Indian jails have potential to endanger bilateral relations.

The minister of state for foreign affairs posted the House with details of efforts made and being made by Pakistan to expedite the repatriation of the bodies of the deceased Pakistanis. The movers did not press their motions following the minister's statement. Earlier in their speeches, they said the issue was a direct threat to security and sovereignty of the country. They said even international law and conventions allow Pakistan to use force for the safety of its nationals. The House also passed three bills before adjourning to meet again tomorrow morning.

Akram Zaki Criticized for 'Naive' Comparisons

BK1211113592 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Too Optimistic"]

[Text] For some strange reason, Pakistan's Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs, Akram Zaki, seems to have taken upon himself the impossible task of trying to show similarities in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's and the US President-elect Bill Clinton's approach to various issues and problems. He has said that the economic reform programme of Bill Clinton is the same as initiated by the Pakistan Government two years ago. This theory of course presupposes that the economies of the two countries are at about the same level of economic development and, therefore what is good for the [words indistict] market economy of Pakistan is also good for one of the world's most developed economies. Even if one is naive enough to buy such a fallacious hypothesis, one has to be completely out of touch with reality to accept that in attacking President Bush's 'trickle down economics'—which sought to give greater tax relief to the higher income groups—and promising to increase taxes on the upper two per cent income bracket in order to help the middle class and the poor, Clinton was inspired by the Pakistan Government's privatisation policy that has created more concessions and incentives for the monied class, is hard to swallow.

Mr Zaki's attempts at looking for similarities in the two leaderships' line of thinking does not stop at this. He goes on to assert that there is a great possibility of enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and the US under Bill Clinton because his views on various matters of mutual interest are all part of Pakistan's policy. From where does all optimism come, is a question one cannot help asking. Regardless of the fact that the Democratic Administrations have never been particularly friendly towards this country, the Democrats ready to take over power are known to have a strong antinuclear proliferation stance—presently the main bone of contention between the two countries. In any case, foreign policies of countries are subservient to their national interest and if that has not changed in the case in point, there is no reason to believe the new administration will alter its policies towards Pakistan. Hence, instead of looking for assurances from foreign quarters, our leaders need to rely on their own abilities to promote Pakistan's interests.

Government To Import Liquified Gas From Iran

BK1211145492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] The government has decided to import liquefied petroleum gas [LPG] from Iran in view of dwindling LPG production situation in the country. This was decided at a meeting of the board of management of Pakistan State Oil [PSO] presided by the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhury Nisar Ali Khan, in Karachi today. The arrangement will benefit in particular the hilly and remote areas and will result in saving our forests.

Under an agreement between PSO and National Iranian Liquefied Petroleum Gas, a consignment of 50 mt [metric tons] of LPG will arrive from Zahedan by road on daily basis and will gradually increase up to 2,000 mt pd [per day]. Chaudhury Nisar Ali Khan, who is also chairman of the PSO board, approved the flotation of a company by the name of (Ena) Gas which will undertake import, development of marine facilities, and storage for distribution of LPG. This is the first joint venture of its nature between Pakistan and Iran.

The minister also accepted a long outstanding demand of PSO workers by issuing instruction for immediate introduction of pension scheme for them.

Navy Chief Meets Saudi, French Naval Officials

BK1211162392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Vice Admiral Talal Bin-Salim al-Mufaddi, the Saudi Arabian Royal Navy commander who arrived in Islamabad for an eight-day visit to Pakistan, and Rear Admiral (Robert Fullbert), the French Navy commander in the Indian Ocean, now visiting Pakistan, called on Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sayeed M. Khan to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Sri Lanka

Minister Comments on Trade Ties With Japan

BK1311120492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Japan is the second largest trading partner of Sri Lanka next to the United States, with a total trade

amounting to 19 billion rupees last year. This was stated by the minister of export development, Raja Samaranayake, when he inaugurated a one-day seminar on how to promote exports to Japanese markets in Colombo yesterday.

Speaking on Sri Lanka's bilateral trade with Japan, Minister Samaranayake said that it has been continuously in favor of Japan. In 1991, the imports from Japan amounted to 14.8 billion rupees, while Sri Lanka's exports to Japan was in the region of 4.2 billion rupees. Emphasizing the need for increased exports to Japan to bridge the trade deficit, the minister detailed the steps taken to increase exports to Japanese markets based on Japan's external trade organization based in Colombo.

Agreement Signed on Textile Project Investment

BK1111115692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] A 534 million-rupee investment project will be launched in Sri Lanka, providing employment to over 3,000 young men and women. This is one of the largest investments in the field of textiles. A agreement was signed yesterday at the office of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka in Colombo. This new enterprise will manufacture circular knitted fabrics for the use of garment manufacturers and for the manufacture of knitted garments.

Lakshman R. Watawela, the director general of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that this project will create employment to 1,690 persons in the first year and it will increase to 3,320 in the fifth year of operation. The total investment of the project will be financed by way [of a] share capital of 260 million rupees and a loan capital of 274 million rupees. Eighty percent of the shares are held by foreign collaborators—(Shing Kwan) Private Limited of Singapore and (D.I. Sting) of West Germany—while the balance is being held by Dasa group of companies, the Development Finance Credit Corporation, the National Development Bank and the People's Bank.

Mr. Lakshman R. Watawela also said that S.P. Tawoo, who is the largest investor in Sri Lanka has invested $3 million and has a 51-percent share in the company. Mr. Tawoo has already invested $110 million in the 39-story Queen Tower Complex.